

Croatian president's call to arms electrifies a nation



Sound of silence: a Yugoslav soldier blocking his ears during a mortar attack on Vukovar yesterday

"CITIZENS of Croatia, I am addressing you at this dramatic and fatal moment for Croatia. A wave of enemy, greater Serbian soldiers has crashed down on our homeland, their purpose is to return us to national slavery and bolshevik darkness, to take from us Croatian areas which have always been part of Croatia."

The call-up announcement from Franjo Tudjman, the president of Croatia, came just before midnight on Saturday, relayed to homes throughout the breakaway republic on television screens already showing the blurred effect of an earlier attack on the Zagreb transmitter by two MG42 jets of the federal air force. The call-up came at the end of a day of bloodshed and rising

As the European Community threatened yesterday to impose sanctions against Yugoslavia to enforce the ceasefire agreed last Friday, Croatia was mobilising for war. Christopher Walker reports on the mood in Zagreb

tension in which any hope of the latest peace accord taking effect was dashed by endless bickering between the Serbian and Croatian sides about the timing and method by which any ceasefire should be applied.

At the wedding reception being held in Zagreb's smartest hotel, the effect of the president's words was electric, with many young men leaving immediately to find out details of where and how to sign up. Some gave each other fascist salutes as patriotic music filled the room.

Mr Tudjman, his face showing signs of strain of the 24

hours since he returned from The Netherlands, pulled no punches in rhetoric which won him new friends among ultra-nationalists bitterly critical of his attempts to negotiate a ceasefire at a moment when the republic had lost one-third of its territory. "The greater Serbian imperialists and the bloodthirsty remnants of the Yugoslav communist military crossed over to a general attack on Croatia, violating all international ceasefire agreements. This demands that we mobilise all our forces in a defensive war."

At the wedding of Ljiljana Ribaric and Davor Pliso, who

said they were going to enjoy their night in the hotel's plush honeymoon suite before he reported for duty in the morning, Western guests were besieged by young Croats demanding military information. Their knowledge of military matters was painfully thin.

"We know that we are the David in this war against Goliath, but we feel we have the cause of right and democracy on our side. The Yugoslav army does not really want to fight," claimed Ujlat Zlatan, an executive for a large chemical company who was fortifying his courage with

liberal helpings of plum brandy. "It was like Britain in 1939. We have no alternative but to fight."

Many women guests broke down in tears at news of the call-up. One weeping Croatian housewife, aged 25, said that she had not seen her husband since he left for the front line three weeks earlier.

"The Yugoslav war machine, shaking in its armour from fear faced with the decisiveness of the Croats, and the fury of the long-suffering Croat people, is not expecting anything other than a shameful defeat," declared the president, addressing a people whose able-bodied menfolk outnumber by five times the weaponry available to them.

"In these troubled times and at this historical turning

point, I call on you brothers and sisters, to fulfil your sacred duty in the defence of the homeland. We are ready to battle for the freedom of our Croatian country, our sea and sky over our one and eternal Croatia."

At the Pliso wedding, a party already depleted by scores of guests because of the eerie blackout in effect throughout Croatia, the bravado of some young men, due to be kitted out with old East German army uniforms the next morning, was mixed with anxiety.

"We know that we are going to face tanks and aeroplanes," Mr Zlatan explained. "But it is time for us to call on our greatest strength, our people."

Zagreb sounds alert, page 10

Tories aim to boost NHS and cut taxes

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE tax cuts and sustained economic growth were promised by Tory leaders yesterday as they tried to win back the political initiative from Labour and shift attention from the damaging charge that the NHS was a target for privatisation.

William Waldegrave, the health secretary, is expected to unveil details of a health service "constitution" at the party's conference in Blackpool this week.

This would enshrine the universal right to free treatment, as an introduction to the patients' charter, which the government has promised will set out guarantees for waiting times. A telephone poll for yesterday's Sunday Times showed that most people believe that the Tories intend to privatise the health service. However, Mr Waldegrave told LBC Radio yesterday that he was determined "to nail" that charge.

As Chris Patten, the Conservative party chairman, tried to focus on the party's traditional economic strengths, Tory morale suffered a new blow last night when a poll of 10,000 people put Labour two percentage points ahead of the Conservatives.

The Press Association/ICM survey was carried out partly before Neil Kinnock's keynote speech at the Labour conference last week. The findings showed 42 per cent support for Labour, 40 per cent for the Conservatives, and 15 per cent for the Liberal Democrats. An NOP poll for The Independent on Sunday, carried out after Labour's Brighton conference, gave Mr Kinnock's party a seven-point lead.

The Conservatives will, however, be encouraged by the findings of a Mori aggregate poll in The Times today, which show that the longer-term trends indicate a Tory recovery from its 12-point deficit a year ago.

The patients' charter, which has already been launched separately in Scotland, will include an overall guarantee of treatment within two years and a new complaints procedure.

Patients will receive a letter as soon as they join a queue for hospital treatment telling them how long they can expect to wait. It will also tell them the names of the health authority manager to complain to if treatment is inadequate and patients will be entrusted to a named nurse or midwife when they enter hospital.

Mr Patten yesterday echoed John Major's view that there was "no doubt" that Britain was coming out of the recession. He said that there would be sustained, non-inflationary growth during the 1990s and he was confident that the Tories would be able both to increase spending on the public services and cut taxes. In a direct attack on Labour's rejection of tax cuts, Mr Patten argued that as international competition grew

Continued on page 20, col 3



Shortness of breath: Nicola Maher, aged four, from Catford, southeast London, getting to grips with her father's tuba at the national brass band championships in London, which was won by the Desford Colliery Caterpillar Band, Leicestershire

IRA orders out drug suspects

By JAMIE DETTMER

TWO dozen alleged drug dealers, including four men who were shot in so-called republican punishment shootings at the weekend, have been told by the Provisional IRA to get out of Northern Ireland or suffer the consequences.

The IRA's move was widely

seen in the province as part of an effort to assert its authority in working-class Catholic areas and to try to distinguish itself from other paramilitary groups involved in drugs.

The four men who were shot late on Saturday night in Catholic west Belfast are said

by police to be in a stable condition in hospital. The men, who suffered serious leg and arm injuries, are in their early and mid-twenties. Police said that the shootings were particularly severe.

Yesterday, nationalist politicians condemned the IRA action and urged people in the province to inform the police if they have any information on drug related activity.

Northern Ireland has a small hard drugs problem but cannabis has been appearing in the province in large quantities. The increase in soft drug abuse is related to an expansion of the "rave party" scene in Belfast, Ulster's equivalent of Britain's acid house parties.

Pay deals fall sharply

THE latest survey of pay deals from the Confederation of British Industry shows wage increases falling to 5.5 per cent in the past three months (Philip Bassett writes).

In the previous CBI survey, pay deals showed their sharpest fall for a decade when they dropped from 8.1 per cent to 6.4 per cent. Now, one

settlement in four is less than 4 per cent, compared with only one in 20 in the fourth quarter of last year.

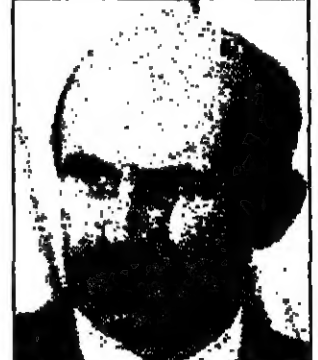
John Banham, CBI director general, said pay settlements in UK manufacturing industry were now below those in west Germany.

Rises at 5.5%, page 21

Knee-capping outcry, page 2

Making world a safer place

In his first article for a Western newspaper, the Soviet leader's interpreter, Pavel Palazchenko, argues in a personal view that East and West must now define what is meant by minimum deterrence



Pavel: absurdity and hypocrisy at an end

The nuclear disarmament initiatives of Presidents Bush and Gorbachev take the world into new territory. It is important to think through the implications.

We are finally ending the absurdity and hypocrisy of negotiating nuclear disarmament while increasing the numbers of weapons. We are ending the needless and costly "escalation of verification", which is a sign of new trust between the US and the Soviet Union. And we are removing nuclear weapons from the battlefield, where they directly face combat forces.

The last point is important. No scenario of eventual use of nuclear weapons was based on the assumption that it would start with the central strategic systems. Indeed, American policy specifically excludes first use of strategic weapons and the Soviet Union has long proclaimed no first use of any nuclear weapons. With tactical nuclear weapons destroyed or removed to storage far away no first use becomes a common policy.

The remaining nuclear weapons thus become a genuine ultimate deterrent rather than a part of a realistic war scenario. Their numbers will therefore have

to be re-evaluated. Inevitably they will be reduced. In fact the only question is how to quantify minimum deterrence and how to move prudently towards the much lower number of strategic weapons.

Cutting the numbers also affects global security. Once the Soviet Union comes out of its current turmoil, the probable challenges will come mostly from the Third World. The north/south conflict may one day become as dangerous as the East/West confrontation of recent past.

The weapons now being removed could never be of any use in meeting challenges from the Third World. Their use was never

Continued on page 20, col 8

TODAY IN THE TIMES

REEL TO REEL



Hollywood's latest weepie, about an ageing film star who marries a nobody she meets in a drink and drugs clinic, stars Liz Taylor and was watched by millions. William Cash on life imitating art Page 14

FRESHERS' GUIDE



Good news - higher education is expanding. Bad news - student accommodation isn't. The Times Student Survey charts the rising cost of academic living Page 26

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Cyclone from the Pacific devastates Wales

By DAVID MILLER

HURRICANE Samoa struck the South Wales coast yesterday afternoon, leaving a trail of devastation and despair. Estimates of the full extent of the damage inflicted vary. Many were dazed and several needed medical attention. Early warning forecasts of the force of the hurricane did little to lessen the psychological impact.

There has been nothing like this moment in the history of rugby union. Western Samoa's World Cup defeat of Wales by 16-13 at Cardiff Arms Park shook the game, never mind the Welsh, to its foundations. The walls of the favoured International Rugby Football Board stronghold, the last "private" governing body in international sport along with the R & A, were breached. Samoa took fearsome revenge for being excluded from the first World Cup four

years ago, when they were South Pacific champions.

Back home in Apia, where beach rugby is played with a ferocity that is astonishing to any visitor, a 30,000 crowd was watching the match live at the racecourse on five television screens lent by New Zealand TV. There are few people who give a better party than the Samoans, and they will be swaying with joy in their southern fashion for the next few days.

"A pity it was Wales and not England," their one accompanying journalist commented. The Samoans, population 170,000, see the Welsh as a fellow minority people. The luckless Welsh, for an hour, had not seen much of anything. Though the score was 3-3 at half-time, they were being torn almost limb from limb.

May, Clement and Collins limped from the field; a few others may well

voluntarily have wished to join them. The formidable Pita Fatiafola, Samoa's captain and prop, asked afterwards whether they would save themselves against Australia to ensure victory and quarter-final qualification against Argentina, replied emphatically: "We're saving ourselves from nothing."

Trying to comfort a Welsh colleague, someone had pointed out that ten of the Samoan team are resident in New Zealand, that it was effectively a New Zealand XV. "Time was when we beat the A team," lamented Taffy.

I have seen, occasionally, New Zealand at their hardest, but not even they compared with some of the Samoans on the rampage. These Pacific Islanders,

Continued on page 20, col 5



Winning smile: Samoa's Pat Lam yesterday

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SECURITY



# IRA knee-capping of alleged drug dealers condemned



Kearns and Madigan who protest their innocence

THE IRA's self-proclaimed war on drugs trafficking in Northern Ireland, which was renewed through weekend threats and punishment shootings, may well receive tacit approval from working class Catholics who are tired of the high levels of crime in their districts.

Previous campaigns by Republican gunmen against petty theft and joy riding have enjoyed support from Catholics in west Belfast and Londonderry. Many people in run down Catholic areas believe the police have failed to combat crime unconnected with para-military activity. The police say that the security

The IRA has donned the mantle of social vigilante with renewed vigour. Few are impressed. Jamie Dettmer reports

forces have to be cautious in their approach in such hostile Republican areas.

The weekend action by the IRA was designed to attract widespread media reaction. The threats were issued after three punishment shootings in Catholic west Belfast on Saturday night. Four men, now stable in hospital, were wounded. Two alleged drug pushers in their twenties were confronted by IRA

gunmen on waste ground and shot in both knees. An hour later a man aged 25 was shot in both knees and both elbows, followed soon afterwards by a 23-year-old who was shot in the legs.

IRA gunmen have not carried out such severe so-called punishment shootings since January 1989 when several men were shot in several limbs. The 1989 shootings were part of a purge of petty thieves

and joyriders whom the IRA feared were acting as police informants.

The IRA action was condemned by nationalist politicians and the police. "They're trying to give the perception that they are trying to protect the community," but of course everybody knows differently," Joe Hendron, an SDLP councillor in Belfast, said. A police spokesman said: "The answer to the criminality of drug pushers is not the criminality of terrorists. They both ruin lives."

The IRA also said over 20 Belfast pubs and clubs were visited at the weekend and told to keep out the pushers. The IRA says that other

paramilitary groups — the Protestant Ulster Volunteer Force and the nationalist INLA and IFLO — are involved in drug trafficking. Senior police officers accept that the IRA does not deal in drugs, although there have been suggestions that it has demanded protection money from dealers.

In August the IRA was widely criticised by Catholics among others for ordering six men to leave Northern Ireland. Yesterday, two of them, Liam Kerns and David Madigan, insisted they were innocent.

Drug suspects, page 1

## Union head defends Japanese practices

Trade union leaders are today accused by one of the largest unions in the country of cowardice and ineptitude and crass stupidity over their attack on Japanese working practices (Philip Bassett writes).

The attack on the general council of the Trades Union Congress, the TUC's governing body, comes from Gavin Laird, general secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, the TUC's fourth-largest, who is not a member of the TUC general council.

It comes after a decision by the TUC at its annual conference in Glasgow last month to carry a motion, with only the AEU and the GMB general union voting against, from the left-led MSF general technical union attacking the "alien" practices of Japanese companies which have set up in Britain.

## Ennals dies

Martin Ennals, former secretary-general of Amnesty International and general secretary of the National Council for Civil Liberties, has died aged 64 in Canada. He had fought a year-long struggle against cancer. Mr Ennals was born in Walsall, West Midlands, into a politically active family. He joined Amnesty International as secretary-general in 1968.

Obituary, page 16

## 9,000 at party

Two men were in hospital with stab wounds and 36 people in police custody after an all-night party at a sports centre attracted three times as many people than expected. More than 9,000 ticket-holders turned up at the Sobell centre in Holloway, north London, when only 3,000 were expected. It was not until 3.30am, six hours after the party was due to start, that everybody was admitted.

## AGENDA

The week ahead

**Tuesday** National breast screening programme launched at start of Europe against Cancer week. Credit business and retail sales figures for August released.

**Wednesday** First day of Conservative party conference, Blackpool. Royal Horticultural Society flower show opens in London.

**Thursday** National Rivers Authority brings prosecution against chemical company, Albright and Wilson, for alleged illegal discharge.

**Friday** The Duchess of York opens Sick Children's Trust Home from Home in London.

**Saturday** Top secretary award announced. Retail price index figures published.

**Sunday** International chess championship begins, Tilburg, The Netherlands.

**Monday** National Crime Defence League dog show, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire.

## Clarke admits drawbacks to school leagues

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Clarke, the education secretary, conceded yesterday that the league tables of examination results promised under the parents' charter would not provide a full guide to schools' quality.

"Those who argue that examination results are not the be-all and end-all of education will find that I agree with them," he said in an ITV interview. Mr Clarke accepted that some schools could fairly claim that local league tables underestimated their performance because of social factors.

However, he again dismissed claims that a more sophisticated system was required. "Listening to the Labour party, you would think that alongside examination results you need statistical tables with the sociological-economic background of the parents. What you do not want is miles and miles of complicated stuff. The whole instinct of the British public services are to offer tremendous amounts of information smothering the whole thing."

He added: "The person in charge of introducing the parents' charter has to be anti-bureaucratic, who sympathises with Joe Public."

Mr Clarke said that the information published under the charter would expose underachievement in schools and stimulate teachers to improve their performance.

"Teachers are going to feel their own sense of professionalism challenged," he said. "Many of them don't know really how they fare compared with others."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "Clarke's claim that publication of examination league tables will shame teachers into trying harder displays a desperately sad and sterile approach to managing the education service. Management by shame and humiliation will only demoralise further and drive out more teachers. It might make good schools better but it will probably make the bad ones worse."

Two teaching unions today dismiss the government's pay reforms in schools as a "non-event". A survey by the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association and the National Association of Head Teachers found that most staff had failed to benefit from performance-related pay.

Their report gives a warning to Mr Clarke that he would be "profoundly ill-advised" to extend the £150 million system of discretionary awards, incentive payments were failing to keep the best teachers in the profession and to attract highly qualified entrants.

Education, pages 26, 27



Shining examples: service-givers relax after the harvest festival for pearly kings and queens at St Martin-in-the-Fields yesterday. The church was packed to see pearly kings and queens from all over London bring produce

## NHS reforms

### Trusts hold back pay rises

By JILL SHERMAN AND LOUISE HIDALGO

MOST hospitals that have opted out of health authority control are not using their new powers to set pay rates outside nationally negotiated levels, according to a survey by The Times. The two principal

distinctions between NHS trusts and directly managed hospitals were supposed to be the freedom to set their own pay rates and to borrow capital from the private sector. The Treasury effectively

stopped trusts borrowing from the private sector this year by setting low external financing limits. The government stripped trusts of the freedom to set their own salaries for junior doctors.

However, the survey shows that most trusts have also failed to change their pay levels for other staff. Most of the 37 trusts set up in April have kept to Whiteley pay rates or levels dictated by the pay review bodies to avoid union disruption and control costs.

Although Guy's trust is planning to implement a £6million savings and investment package to allow 5 per cent pay increases above the going rate for many staff, other hospitals have been less imaginative. Some trusts have introduced limited measures such as more pay flexibility for senior managers.

Other self-governing hospitals have changed their employment benefits instead. Walsall trust has introduced paternity leave while the Mid-Cheshire trust has altered holiday entitlement.

### Loss of nurses is 'costing £24m'

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE turnover in jobs among experienced nurses in the national health service is costing up to £24 million each year, or almost £50 per day for each NHS patient, the Royal College of Nursing says today. Its claim, based on detailed research on the cost of losing and replacing experienced nurses, is likely to be considered seriously by ministers.

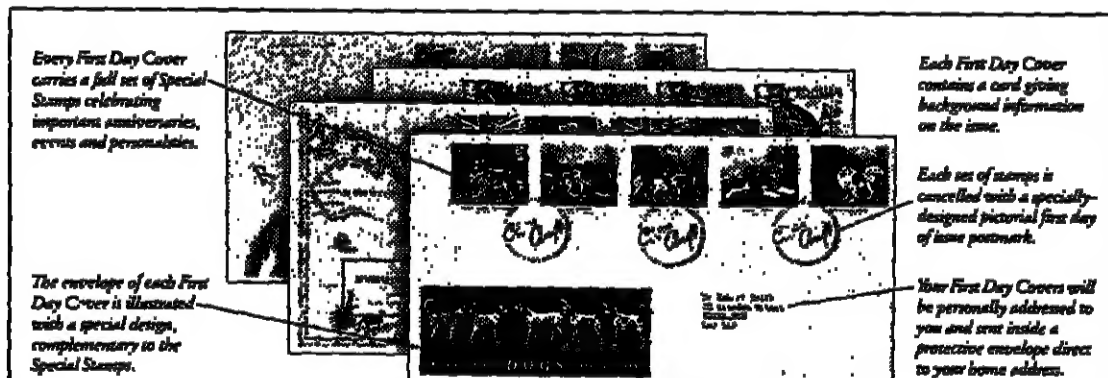
The claim and the research are being submitted by the college as part of its evidence to the government's pay review body for nurses. The nurses' staff side, including the college, is calling for 9 per cent pay increases this year with up to 21 per cent for lowest-paid grades.

Using research commissioned from Sussex University's Institute of Manpower Studies, the college says that each nurse leaving the health service costs the NHS an average of £3,000. The cost of

losing a nurse — including the separation costs, the cost of a temporary replacement, of recruitment and selection of a permanent replacement and of the replacement's induction and training — varies between £1,250 and £7,760.

The institute says that a 350-bed hospital employing 700 nurses would under present turnover rates incur nurse turnover costs of £525,000 a year, or 6.8 per cent of its pay bill. With patient occupancy at 75 per cent, that is equivalent to £5.47 per patient day.

The college says that the average turnover rate of 25 per cent is equivalent to 80,000 nurses leaving the NHS every year. At an average cost of £3,000, that is a loss of £24 million. The college says that if turnover could be reduced from 25 to 15 per cent, the average 350-bed hospital could save £210,000 each year, or £6.4 million nationally.



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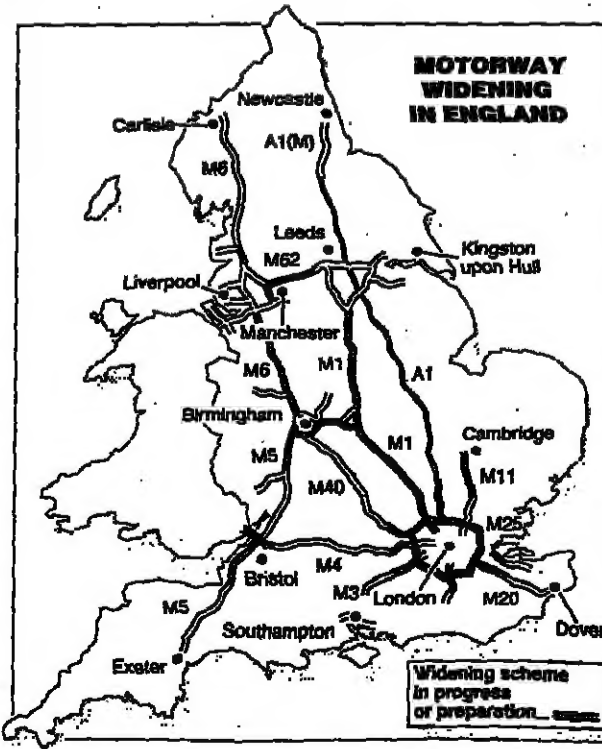
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## Motorways scheme faces a rough ride

The road to wider motorways is likely to be far from smooth. Michael Dynes reports



AMBITION plans to widen about a third of the 1,650 miles of motorway in England have begun in earnest with the decision to upgrade the M25 to four lanes in each direction, one of the first of 25 new motorway widening schemes.

Under the Roads For Prosperity programme unveiled in 1989, the transport department is aiming to widen about 600 miles of motorway in the next decade. Nothing on this scale has been attempted before, and many road users fear the expansion will mean many more traffic cones, delays and diversions.

Environmental groups have denounced the programme as a multi-billion pound exercise in futility. They say that the money would be better spent on public transport, and predict that when the work is finished increased vehicle numbers will have left the motorway network in the same congested condition it is in today.

Moreover, thousands of homeowners from Carlisle to Dover are waiting to discover whether the motorway near them is going to be moved much closer, reducing the value of their houses or even necessitating their demolition.

On the tenth floor of an office building in Coventry, Dr John Denning, director of the department's motorway widening unit, says that the widening programme is essential for the economy. "It's going to be an enormous task," he said. "But the more I study it, the more I am convinced that the reasons for widening make sense."

Dr Denning's unit, established in April 1990, will oversee the programme, which is expected to cost the taxpayer about £5.6 billion. Supported by a 100-strong task force, the unit has divided the national motorway network for widening into 25 segments, each of which has been put out to tender by private sector consultants.

"We have to evaluate each section to decide which of the options for widening are most appropriate," Dr Denning said. "Where we have a choice some options will be ruled out because they would take the motorway too close to residential areas, while others will be rejected because they will cause too much disruption to traffic."

Modern techniques have increased the options for expanding motorways in the last ten years. By taking a strip of land on one or both sides of a motorway, additional lanes can be constructed with minimal disruption to traffic.

Work on the first scheme between junctions 6 and 8 on the M5 started in July. The last 13 miles of four-lane motorway between Birmingham and Exeter, used by a quarter of a million vehicles a week, will be upgraded to a six-lane motorway within two years.

Preliminary decisions on some of the remaining 24 schemes are expected to be taken in the next six months. "Ministers naturally take a close interest in such decisions," said Dr Denning.

When the preferred options have been identified, exhibitions will be mounted to explain individual widening plans to local residents. Some properties will be affected, but it is too early to say exactly how many.

"I hesitate to say that the entire programme will go without a hitch," Dr Denning said. "But we have a lot of people working hard to minimise its impact."



## Hotels accused of overcharging for cancelled rooms

MANY hotels are unfairly penalising guests who cancel accommodation, say consumer groups. The Consumers' Association and Citizens Advice Bureau report an increase in complaints from people who have been asked to pay the full price or more for rooms they have not used.

The groups believe that hotels are taking a tough and often unjustified line because they are feeling the effects of the recession and a shortage of foreign tourists.

In cases uncovered by *The Times*, one family was charged £890 after leaving its holiday hotel after two nights and an American couple faces legal action over a demand for £600 from an hotel they never used. In some cases hotels have put the charge on guests' credit cards and the victims are finding it difficult to get money back from the credit card companies.

"Some hoteliers seem to be acting above the law," Anne Harvey, a Consumers' Association lawyer, said. "Many guests are unaware that they can challenge these charges and it is important that they do so for the sake of all hotel users."

The criticism of hoteliers' policy on cancellations comes after attacks in two new hotel guides. The 1992 *Good Hotel Guide* accuses leading hotels of "eye-popping extortion" in the prices they charge for extra. The *Which? Hotel Guide* says that some hoteliers are "mean, rude and deaf to their customers' needs".

In one case investigated by *The Times*, Graham Hibbert from Orpington, Kent,

**Tony Dawes examines a rise in cases which leave guests who walk out bitter over their bills**

booked a brief summer holiday for his wife Carol and three children at short notice at the Swainston Manor Hotel, near Newport on the Isle of Wight. He says he was quoted a bed and breakfast rate of £505 for the four nights in August and gave his National Westminster Bank gold card number.

He says that there was a minor fault with the accommodation and that he was particularly incensed on the second afternoon when the manager walked into his room without knocking to show around potential guests. The Hibberts left the next morning without informing the staff but did notify the hotel later in the day. When his gold card statement arrived last month, Mr Hibbert found that he had been charged £890.

"We feel we have been taken for a ride," he said. "We are also disappointed by the attitude of the gold card people who say they cannot act as arbitrators in the case and will do nothing for us." Fred Woodward, the hotel manager, said that the bill was justified and that a figure of £505 had never been mentioned. "I charged the five of them at the bed and breakfast rate of £38 each for the four days, which came to a total of £760. They had a few extras

like meals for the children and I added a 10 per cent service charge on top of that to reach the total of £890.

"I am quite satisfied that we have done nothing improper. The Hibberts broke their contract with us by leaving without informing us or paying the bill. I couldn't let his rooms for an odd night in the middle of a holiday period and feel justified in charging him for them."

Rita Gromb from Golders Green, north London, booked two double rooms for her husband, herself and an American cousin and his wife in July at the award winning Amberley Castle Hotel in West Sussex. They were in the area the day before they were due to stay and took a look at the accommodation. The cousin, Ralph Lubow, from Baltimore, who was going to pay the bill, decided that the accommodation was unsuitable and cancelled the booking, offering to pay for the first night if the hotel was unable to let the rooms again. Amberley Castle let the room for the first night but not for the next two and is demanding the full £600 for those two nights. Mr Lubow has refused to pay.

Mrs Gromb said: "He comes to England a lot and likes to stay in the best hotels. He was not happy with the accommodation offered at Amberley Castle and is not prepared to pay. He couldn't care less about the money, it's the principle." Martin Cummings, the hotel owner, said: "This is not a hard luck story. This is someone who was playing the system. Mr Lubow had got a better deal than we could offer from the hotel where he was already staying. There is a £2½ million investment in this small castle with only 12 rooms and 30 covers in the restaurant. Not only have I lost revenue from the cancellation, but I have also lost the opportunity to sell them dinner, tea and coffee. I am going to get the full amount and am instructing my solicitors."

Ann Harvey of the Consumers' Association challenges the attitude of the hoteliers and says that in law the most they can recover is lost profit which could, however, be as much as two thirds of the cost. "Mr Hibbert should not accept his charge and should be prepared to use all available procedures to obtain a credit to his gold card account," she said.

Ron Williams, NatWest's director of payment services, said that the bank does take action on customers' behaviour in thousands of cases every year. "If the cardholder can convince us that he has not received services for which he has been charged, we will credit his account and debit the company responsible," he said.

## Ruling on Sunday working welcomed

By JENNY KNIGHT

THE Keep Sunday Special Campaign last night welcomed an industrial tribunal ruling that a man who lost his job after refusing to work on Sundays was unfairly dismissed.

Robert George's victory over his employers, Plant Breeding International, was described as a legal landmark by the campaign, which took up his case. A spokesman said: "This is a major victory for the principle of Sunday rest."

In its ruling, the tribunal at Bury St Edmunds said: "Unless time is created for members of the family to meet and relate to one another, family life in Britain is likely to continue to show fragmentation of family relationships."

Mr George, aged 43, a father of two from Thriplow, Cam-

bridgeshire, was sacked from his £9,500-a-year seed-packing job last year for refusing to work 12-hour days, seven days a week during the harvest period. The tribunal was told that Mr George had wanted Sundays off to be with his family and attend church.

Last night the Sunday Shopping Hours Reform Council also welcomed the decision. Roger Boden director said: "The need to protect shop staff has always been a key part of our policy. Now we know it can be done."

During the hearing, Plant Breeding International, a Cambridge-based subsidiary of Unilever, said Mr George knew when he took the job that he would have to work overtime and weekends between July and October.



Wine checkout: Helen Tarry, believed to be Britain's only woman commercial wine maker, checking a 1990 white wine. She has worked at the Westbury Vineyard near Reading, owned by Bernard Theobald, for the past 13 years

## Lifting of ivory trade ban opposed

ANY attempt to lift the international ban on ivory trading will be opposed by the government (John Young writes). Several African countries are seeking a resumption of trade, claiming that their elephant numbers are healthy and that selective culling would pose no threat.

David Trippier, the environment minister, said: "I am firmly committed to maintaining the ivory trade ban to ensure the survival and recovery of elephant populations."

The ban, imposed less than two years ago, is to be reconsidered at a meeting of the United Nations convention on international trade in endangered species in Tokyo in March. A convention report this week is expected to recommend limited relaxation.

South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Namibia, Botswana and Zambia have said a resumption of trade would destroy the illegal market for poachers and provide revenue for conservation. It would give them an incentive to maintain their elephant populations and reduce the likelihood of the animals being shot as pests.

William Travers, chairman of the charity Elephants, said that the argument had been tried and discredited. Before the ban, four elephants were slaughtered by poachers for every one killed legally.

There would always be an illegal trade, but it had been greatly reduced. In Kenya alone the number of elephants killed each year was down from 3,000 to about 50. Suggestions that ivory's origin could be identified by genetic fingerprinting were impractical.

Mr Travers has the support of Richard Leakey, director of the Kenya Wildlife Service, who said that the ban has been a success and that the bottom had dropped out of the ivory markets in the Far East.

## Tractor detour saves puddle wildlife

By JOHN YOUNG

THE rare fairy shrimp has been saved from extinction on a farm in Hampshire by the building of a diversion around its home for the farmer's tractor.

The fairy shrimp, usually less than an inch long, takes its name from its delicate, ethereal appearance. In truth it is not really a shrimp at all but belongs to the species *Anostraca*. Shrimp or not, it likes to live in puddles, in this case the ruts and potholes of a track crossing the Noar Hill nature reserve at Selborne, which is managed by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

Trust members were concerned to discover recently

that the tenant farmer who used the track had filled in the potholes with rubble. With his consent they dug out the rubble and built a new section of track to accommodate his tractor.

The fairy shrimp, a hardy and tenacious creature, has since returned and is apparently breeding successfully.

Clive Chatters, the trust's conservation officer, said yesterday that the fairy shrimp was an ancient organism, regarded as an endangered species by English Nature.

It lived in ponds and puddles for part of the year, but its eggs could survive in dry dust. Modern farming practices threatened its future.

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## Halibut swims into salmon market

By KERRY GILL

THE halibut may be uglier than the salmon, in recent years a mainstay of Shetland fish farming, but the flatfish that can survive for almost 50 years in the cold waters off Iceland could become a new source of income for farmers on the most northerly British Isles.

Salmon farmers are watching events at West Burrasfirth, on the west coast of the Shetland mainland, where 36 halibut are being reared. The farmers have had a lean time this year

because of falling salmon prices and Norwegian producers flooding the European market. Halibut fetch twice as much as salmon once the fish, which are difficult to rear, reach the fishmongers.

Gibby Johnson, owner of one of Shetland's biggest farms, said: "It's some time away yet, but it will come." The Scottish Salmon Growers' Association said: "We haven't reached the stage where they will replace salmon." The halibut are

being fattened up in cages belonging to Shetland Islands' council, one of 17 companies and organisations in the new British Halibut Association.

The association, with the Sea Fish Industry Authority, is investigating the idea of farming the flatfish with trials at the Ardtoe marine farming unit in Argyll. A trip to prime halibut grounds off Iceland provided a few hundred young fish for experiments. Early in 1986 two females

from the broodstock produced eggs and last year 25 females produced more than six million eggs in five months. The eggs were fertilised by mixing them with milk, the soft roe from the male fish.

So far no egg has grown up into a marketable sized fish, but Shetland's salmon farmers believe that halibut, a more meaty fish than salmon, could eventually be the answer to the over-production of salmon, particularly from Norway.



# HANDS UP THE WINNER OF THE 1991 BRITISH TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP.



Driving a BMW M3, Will Hoy yesterday won the 1991 Esso RAC British Touring Car Championship at Silverstone. Congratulations to him and everyone at Team Securicor Vic Lee Motorsport.

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Perhaps it's hardly surprising, because in racing form, its 4 cylinder 16 valve engine can develop over 270 bhp at nearly 8000 rpm.

Sadly, the roadgoing version of the M3 is no longer in production. But if you talk to your dealer now, you will find there are still just a few left.

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## Profits waste away for paper recycler

ADRIAN Oldman has watched the profitability of his waste paper recycling company dwindle this year, as Britain has lagged behind other European countries in the re-use of raw materials.

The price paid by paper mills for the recycled computer print-outs and copier paper in which he specialises has dropped by 40 per cent since February.

Without financial support from the local authority it is unlikely that the Paper Recycling Company, of Hackney, East London, would still be operating, and Mr Oldman looks with envy to counterparts abroad, where legislation and levies have led to a rapid growth in recycling.

The absence of large and stable markets for recycled materials is believed to be one of the main reasons for the low level of recycling in the United Kingdom. "Unless a market is created what

Britain is trailing its European neighbours in the recycling of raw materials, reports Nick Nuttall

paper we were getting £120 a tonne but it is now down to £85 to £90 a tonne," he said. "It's a sizeable drop with no signs of improvement."

A survey published today by Helmut Kaiser, environmental consultants in Germany, puts the level in 1990 of UK solid waste sorted, composted and recycled as better only than Greece in a European league table. About 20 million tonnes of such waste is produced in the UK, of which only about 5 per cent is recycled, compared with 10.5 per cent in The Netherlands and 13 per cent in Spain.

Pressures to increase the level of recycling in Britain are on the way, however. In November the European Commission is expected to publish a draft directive on packaging, calling on member states to recycle 60 per cent by the mid-1990s and 90 per cent by the year 2000. Local authorities have been asked for plans aimed at meeting a UK target of 25 per cent of household waste recycled by 2000.

The net effect should lead to more recycling, but also more glass, paper, compost and other materials on the market. A new report, *Considerations for a National Recycling Plan*, published by Save Waste and Prosper, a non-profit company working with Leeds city council, says that national estimates need to be made on the tonnages of materials that will arise from recycling and the likely industrial consumption. It calls for incentives to encourage the use of recycled materials, and provisions for stockpiling non-perishable wastes such as glass and plastics during times of low demand.

Leading article, page 15

**EUROPE'S WASTE MOUNTAINS**

Unrecycled solid waste (%)

Austria	86.5%
Spain	86.5%
Netherlands	86.5%
Sweden	80.1%
Portugal	91.2%
Switzerland	91.6%
Ireland	91.8%
Germany	91.9%
Denmark	92.1%
Finland	93.0%
Italy	93.3%
Belgium	94.2%
Norway	94.2%
Luxembourg	95.0%
France	95.2%
UK	95.2%
Greece	95.7%

Source: Helmut Kaiser Consultancy

we are doing is nothing more than glorified refuse collection," Mr Oldman said. "We need to encourage people to buy goods made from recycled materials so we can compete."

Virgin timber, considerable amounts of which Britain imports from Scandinavia and North America, has been about 15 per cent cheaper than the raw materials that Mr Oldman supplies. "For computer



Adrian Oldman: "Unless a market is created, what we are doing is glorified refuse collection"

## Ashtray valued at £30,000

By JOHN SHAW

A SILVER gift bowl long used as an ashtray is expected to sell for £30,000 after the owner discovered it to be a 16th century Ottoman rarity.

The object was identified by Professor John Carswell, director of Sotheby's Islamic department, much to the surprise of the woman owner, who lives in the south of France. She had assumed it to be worthless.

The bowl will go for auction at Sotheby's in London on Thursday.

● Works of art belonging to Bill Paley, chairman of CBS Television, sold for \$1.625 million (£939,800), just over the high estimate, at Sotheby's in New York. A French Régence side table circa 1725, similar to one in the Wallace Collection, made the top price of \$445,500 (£257,514), over three times the high estimate.

● Sotheby's is to set up a branch in New Delhi, its first in India. The company hopes to hold regular sales in Bombay and the Indian capital.

## Trainee GPs ill informed about Aids

By THOMSON PRENTICE MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MOST doctors training to become general practitioners have gaps in their knowledge about Aids and are prejudiced against patients at high risk of the disease, according to a survey today.

Half of them would not accept intravenous drug abusers on to their list, only 12 per cent found it easy to discuss sex with homosexual patients, and only 37 per cent felt able to offer counselling about HIV infection and Aids.

The survey, in the *British Journal of General Practice*, says that the GP trainees' difficulties resemble those of doctors already in general practice. Many GPs are ill-prepared to play a part in curbing the spread of Aids, and their problems in counselling HIV-positive patients is particularly regrettable, the authors of the survey say.

More than 500 GP trainees in seven health regions in England and Scotland took part in the survey, funded by the health department.



New melody makers: Kelly Green (left) and Melissa Hope, both aged 11, donning their robes for a final rehearsal before their debut with 14 other girls in an all-girl choir at Salisbury Cathedral for evensong today, breaking a 900-year tradition of male choirs at cathedral schools

## Mackay pledge on abducted children

By FRANCES GIBB LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor has moved swiftly to dispel fears that the new Children Act, coming into force next week, will make it harder to secure the return of "tug of love" children abducted abroad.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern told family lawyers in London on Saturday that such fears were misplaced.

He said it had been suggested that the residents' orders, replacing custody orders under the act, might not be recognised by foreign courts under the Hague Convention on international child abduction. However, the convention described custody rights as including the right to determine a child's place of residence.

He said there was also concern about the act's emphasis on courts not making orders unless strictly necessary. However, under the Hague Convention, the existence of an order was not essential for enforcing people's rights.

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As Conservatives gather at Blackpool, a three-month Mori aggregate puts Labour ahead by one point

## Long-term prospects signal Tory recovery

By ROBIN OAKLEY  
POLITICAL EDITOR

LABOUR has retained its lead over the Conservatives in the third quarter of 1991, according to the latest Mori aggregate poll, covering 5,653 adults from July to September.

Mori found support for the parties at Labour 41 per cent, Conservatives 40 and Liberal Democrats 15. Scottish and Welsh nationalists were on 2 per cent, the Green party 1 and others 1.

Those figures repeated on a uniform swing at the general election would result in an evenly hung parliament in which both major parties would be a dozen or so seats short of an overall majority. But the longer-term trends indicate a Conservative recovery.

A year ago Labour had a lead of 12 points. Since then, the Mori aggregate polls, with their much bigger samples which tend to iron out more temporary swings in a volatile electorate, have shown the main parties virtually level. In the first quarter of this year, including the Gulf war, the Conservatives edged to a 1 point lead. In the second quarter Labour regained a 2 point lead, which has now fallen to a margin of just 1 point.

Support for the parties at the last general election was Conservatives 43 per cent, Labour 32 and SDP/Liberal Alliance 23.

None of the polling for the

### Percentage change in voting trends since second quarter 1991

	2 Qtr	Now	Ch	2 Qtr	Now	Ch	2 Qtr	Now	Ch
ALL (100%)	39	40	+1	37	40	+3	41	40	-1
Lab	41	41	0	43	42	-1	38	40	+2
L/Dem	15	15	0	16	14	-2	18	14	-4
C lead	-2	-1	+1	-8	-2	+4	-2	0	+2
ABC1 (42%)	35	35	0	35	35	0	26	28	+2
Lab	36	36	0	38	37	-1	31	33	+2
L/Dem	18	17	-1	18	17	-1	19	15	-4
C lead	-2	-1	+1	-2	-1	+1	-3	-2	+1
DE (31%)	42	43	+1	42	43	+1	42	43	+1
Lab	42	43	+1	42	43	+1	42	43	+1
L/Dem	17	15	-2	17	15	-2	15	15	0
C lead	+3	+4	+1	+3	+4	+1	+3	+4	+1
18-24 (15%)	34	34	0	34	34	0	34	34	0
Lab	34	34	0	34	34	0	34	34	0
L/Dem	11	12	+1	11	12	+1	11	12	+1
C lead	-13	-13	0	-13	-13	0	-13	-13	0
25-34 (16%)	35	35	0	35	35	0	35	35	0
Lab	35	35	0	35	35	0	35	35	0
L/Dem	14	15	+1	14	15	+1	14	15	+1
C lead	-6	-4	+2	-6	-4	+2	-6	-4	+2
35-44 (32%)	40	40	0	40	40	0	40	40	0
Lab	40	40	0	40	40	0	40	40	0
L/Dem	19	19	0	19	19	0	19	19	0
C lead	-21	-21	0	-21	-21	0	-21	-21	0
Non TU (77%)	42	43	+1	42	43	+1	42	43	+1
Lab	42	43	+1	42	43	+1	42	43	+1
L/Dem	17	15	-2	17	15	-2	15	15	0
C lead	+3	+4	+1	+3	+4	+1	+3	+4	+1
North (36%)	39	40	+1	39	40	+1	39	40	+1
Lab	39	40	+1	39	40	+1	39	40	+1
L/Dem	12	10	-2	12	10	-2	12	10	-2
C lead	-27	-22	+5	-27	-22	+5	-27	-22	+5
Owner Occ (64%)	45	47	+2	45	47	+2	45	47	+2
Lab	45	47	+2	45	47	+2	45	47	+2
L/Dem	17	17	0	17	17	0	17	17	0
C lead	+28	+30	+2	+28	+30	+2	+28	+30	+2
Council Ten (24%)	20	21	+1	20	21	+1	20	21	+1
Lab	20	21	+1	20	21	+1	20	21	+1
L/Dem	11	10	-1	11	10	-1	11	10	-1
C lead	-9	-11	-2	-9	-11	-2	-9	-11	-2
Private Ten (8%)	38	37	-1	38	37	-1	38	37	-1
Lab	38	37	-1	38	37	-1	38	37	-1
L/Dem	16	16	0	16	16	0	16	16	0
C lead	-22	-21	+1	-22	-21	+1	-22	-21	+1

latest Mori aggregate was carried out in the past week and so does not allow for the possible effect of the successful Labour conference. Two smaller polls conducted since Neil Kinnock's keynote speech have shown Labour leads of 2 and 7 points.

The Mori figures indicate that John Major was wise not to call a November

election, having failed to build a sufficient lead to allow for the normal slight swing away from the government of the day during an election campaign. But they do confirm private Conservative polling reported to put the party ahead in marginal seats.

The Mori sample included 548 interviews in marginal seats and measured support there at Labour 42, Conservatives 40, Liberal Democrats 12 and others 6. That means that Labour has secured a swing of only 3.5 points in the marginal seats, compared with the overall national swing of 6 points in its favour. If the pattern in the marginals were repeated in a general election, the Conservatives would have an overall majority of 19 seats.

The Conservatives have gained 3 percentage points among male voters while losing 1 point to Labour. As the election approaches, the gender gap, which has often benefited the Conservatives, seems to be disappearing.

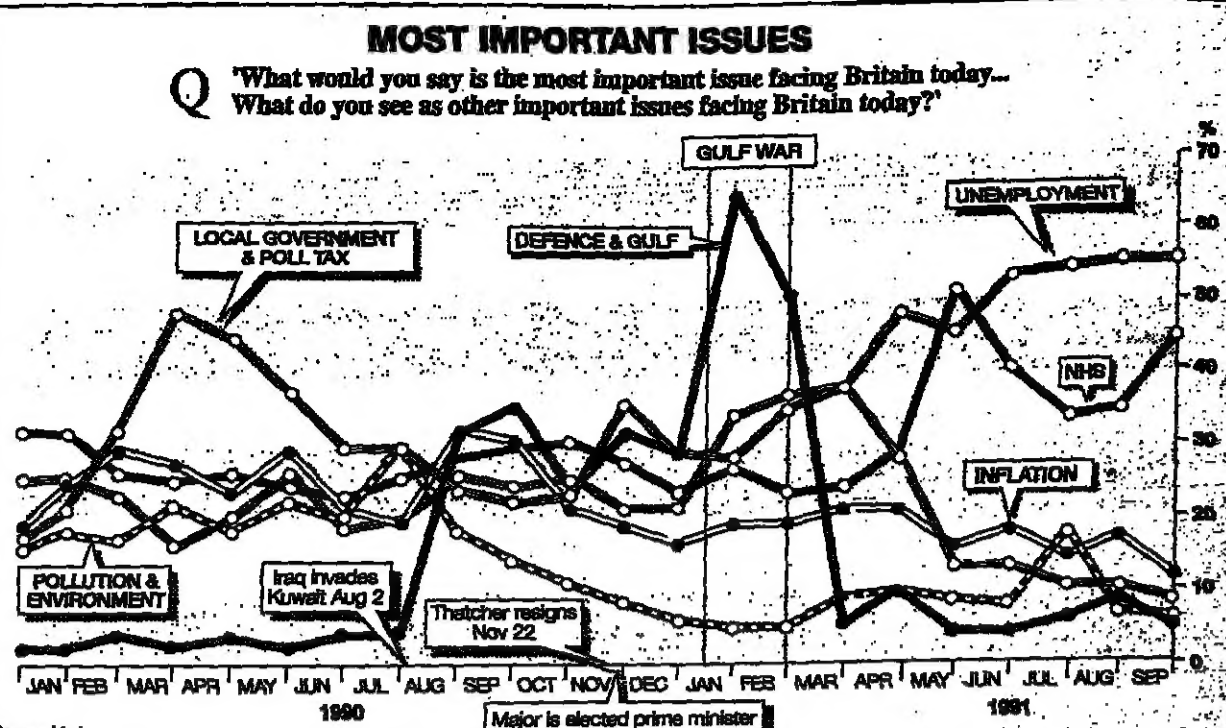
At the 1979 election the Conservative lead among women was 9 points more than among men and in 1983 it was 8 points. But at the last election the 11-point Conservative victory margin was the same among male and female voters. Over the past three quarters the gender gap in the Conservatives' favour has closed to only 2

points. This may reflect Labour's success in pushing to the top of the agenda issues of greater concern to women, such as the health service and law and order, where Labour receives a better rating from the public. Women voters, according to the poll evidence, are less concerned with inflation and management of the economy, issues where the Tories do best.

There is a significant age gap in Labour's support. New voters, the 18 to 24-year-olds who represent 15 per cent of the electorate, give Labour a 13 point lead. The Conservatives have a 4 point lead among the over-55s, an age gap of 17 per cent, the same as at the last election. The problem for Labour is that the over-55s are more than twice as numerous, representing 34 per cent of the electorate. And while more than 80 per cent of the over-55s turned out last polling day, only 50 per cent of young voters did.

The large Mori sample included 291 people who were unemployed when they were questioned. Of those, 21 per cent were intending to vote Conservative, 62 per cent Labour and 11 per cent Liberal Democrat. But if the unemployed sample (which tends to include a higher proportion of young and working class respondents) is weighted to reflect the population at large, the figures are Conservatives 32, Labour 52 and Liberal Democrats 11.

None the less, unemployment, as the accompanying graphic shows, was the top issue among respondents, named as a concern in September by 54 per cent. The health service, at second place, is climbing again to Labour's advantage. But although ministers are laying great stress on the government's achievement in bringing down the inflation rate from its 10.5 per cent



First words of many: an adjustment is made to the platform slogan in the Tory conference hall at Blackpool

peak to 4.7, inflation has never been rated as a serious concern by more than 30 per cent over the past year. In terms of leadership image Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, continued to enjoy the best

rating over the past month. With 52 per cent satisfied with the way he does his job and 22 per cent dissatisfied, he has a net rating of plus 30. Mr Major (57 per cent satisfied, 32 per cent dissatisfied) scores plus 25. But Neil

Kinnock continues to lag well behind his party in popularity: 33 per cent satisfied and 53 per cent dissatisfied, a net rating of minus 20. The most heartening statistics for the Conservatives

among Mori's findings are those measuring economic optimism. In September a year ago 46 per cent believed the economy would get worse over the next year than those who believed it would improve, a net index figure of minus 46. At the start of the latest quarter the figure was still minus 7. But in August it moved to plus 7, and is now plus 13, despite the lack of hard evidence to back up ministerial assertions that the economy is beginning to come out of recession.

Mori interviewed 5,653 adults, aged 18 and over, face to face at home throughout Great Britain. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population. Copyright Mori/Times Newspapers

## The wayward effect of conferences

THE seven-point Labour lead measured by a NOP poll for *The Independent on Sunday* is being put down to the razzamatazz of Labour's conference and Neil Kinnock's widely praised keynote speech.

There has been some puzzlement that the Liberal Democrats have not benefited from their conference, which was reckoned to be

successful and disciplined. Can good conferences, however, be relied upon to boost party fortunes? The evidence suggests not.

In 1983 Labour went up ten points after the conference at which Michael Foot gave way to Neil Kinnock, but in 1984 the conference had virtually no effect. In 1985, Neil Kinnock won plaudits for his attack

on the Liverpool Militants and Labour went up three points, but the Tories gained five points after their not especially successful conference.

In 1986 Tory ministers set out a series of proposals designed to kick-start the recovery that led to the 1987 election success. Although the Tories rose by four points, so did Labour after

its conference. The 1987 and 1988 conferences had a negligible effect on the poll ratings of the two major parties. In 1989 Labour put on five points and the Tories were unchanged.

After the 1990 conferences, with Mrs Thatcher at the height of her unpopularity over the poll tax, the Tories went down five and Labour went up four.

## Young Tories want end to mortgage tax relief

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

MORTGAGE interest tax relief, a key point in the government's drive for a home-owning democracy, comes under fire from the Young Conservatives today.

In a housing charter published on the eve of the Conservative party conference, the Young Conservatives add their support to recent findings of the Duke of Edinburgh's enquiry into housing, which advocated the abolition of such relief. That recommendation received no support from the government.

The charter describes the tax relief as an expensive subsidy for better-off homeowners, which stifles the rented market and does little to help the first-time buyer because the subsidy is capitalised into house prices. "It should be abolished, with the revenue used to reduce the basic rate of income tax."

The Young Conservatives have launched the charter to build on the success of the home ownership drive in the 1980s with new policies for the 1990s. The document says

that increasingly restrictive local planning policies threaten the home ownership dreams of many - particularly the young - by pricing them out of the market or failing to provide the homes required. The charter adds: "The decline of the private rented sector excludes many from the most appropriate tenure for young, mobile and single people."

It urges the environment secretary to use his planning powers to ensure that restrictions on housebuilding are liberalised, so that new housing can relieve shortages.

In calling for the abolition of mortgage interest tax relief, the charter seeks to create a "level playing field" for the different forms of tenure, in order to reverse the decline of the private rented sector. All residential property, whether owner-occupied or rented, should be exempted from capital gains tax.

Referring to the social aims of the prime minister, the charter says that the present housing divisions threaten the emergence of a classless society.

Attacks on mortgage tax relief ignore the real causes of house price inflation and will not help to improve housing, the mortgage lender Household Mortgage Corporation claims. Its marketing director, Brian Whitfield, says in its quarterly review: "The impact of tax relief on mortgages has steadily declined over the past decade but house prices have still endured a roller-coaster ride. Tax relief is clearly not a significant factor in house price inflation. More important are interest rates and incomes, plus the ever-present mismatch of demand for homes and their supply."

## Irish scandals prompt slump in polls

WHEN is a friend not a friend? What are the limits of guilt by association? Should a prime minister resign when businessmen associated with him are believed to have used public bodies to exploit the tax payer?

Those questions are at the heart of a series of financial scandals that have led the Irish public to question the relationship between politics and business and to doubt the probity of Charles Haughey's coalition government.

An opinion poll yesterday confirms that the Mr Haughey is in trouble and shows that there is a significant swing away from the governing Fianna Fail party whose rating has dropped 11 per cent since March.

The government is faced by four damaging scandals involving Telecom Eireann; Greencore, the recently privatised Irish Sugar Company; Celtic Helicopters, partly owned by Mr Haughey's second son Cian; and Mr Haughey's 300-acre Kinsealy estate in north Dublin.

According to opposition politicians the installation by

Doubts over the honesty of Charles Haughey are refusing to go away, reports Jamie Dettmer



Haughey: he has rejected "misleading statements"

owned Aer Lingus, from National City Brokers, a firm partly owned by Dermot Desmond, until recently a Haughey family friend.

The Greencore affair also involves friends of Mr Haughey. Before it was privatised the Irish Sugar Company lent IRE1 million to its senior executives to buy a 49 per cent stake in Sugar Distributors, of which it owned 51 per cent. A year later, it bought the 49 per cent from the executives, handing them a IRE7 million profit.

That apparently went un-

detected or unquestioned by the department of finance and agriculture, by the brokers NCB, or by Berni Cahill, chairman of Irish Sugar, a friend of Mr Haughey and chairman of Aer Lingus. Telecom also provides an example of the state paying over the odds for an asset, in this case a building in the fashionable Dublin suburb of Ballsbridge.

The site was bought for IRE4.5 million by United Property Holdings, the property arm of NCB in which Michael Smurfit, chairman of Telecom, held a 10 per cent stake. It was sold on to Telecom two years later for IRE9.4 million.

Telecom made no independent valuation of the site and failed to make any costs comparisons with other sites. Dr Smurfit, another "business friend" of Mr Haughey, resigned as chairman of Telecom last week. He was followed by Dermot Desmond, who resigned as chairman of Aer Rianta, the state airport authority. With friends like that, who needs enemies?

## Activists storm mink farm

A family of six was attacked when animal rights activists stormed their home on a mink farm near Halifax, North Yorkshire.

Joseph Egretsberger, aged 45, was working at the Swales Moor mink farm, Boothtown, on Saturday when he was confronted by a 200-strong crowd. He said they kicked him to the ground and pushed a tractor over his leg, breaking it.

Relatives came to his aid and Mr Egretsberger's son Daniel, aged 21, was also beaten and kicked to the ground. Police arrived as the crowd was trying to enter the mink enclosure. Forty-three people were questioned by police.

## Train crashes

Seven people were hurt at Lime Street station, Liverpool, on Saturday when a train's brakes failed and it crashed into a platform, destroying the cab and damaging buildings. Passengers had been taken off after the driver had earlier reported brake trouble.

## Yacht for sale

A motor yacht built in 1938 for Sir Malcolm Campbell, the motor and speedboat record-breaker, has gone on sale for £550,000 at Falmouth, Cornwall, after a plan to turn it into a floating radio station was abandoned.

## On the run

Fourteen inmates from high-security Full Sutton jail near York completed half-marathons yesterday in aid of children with learning difficulties.

## Bond winners

Winners in the weekly Premium Bonds draw are: £100,000, bond number 521, 37524; winner comes from Cornwall (value of holding, £1,000); £50,000, 30AN 837369, London borough of Barnet (£3,181); £25,000, 1KN 926987, West Sussex (£23).

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## American foreign ministers draw blank in Port-au-Prince talks

## Haitian generals refuse to reinstate elected president

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN PORT-AU-PRINCE



Death row: a man taking an empty coffin towards the centre of Port-au-Prince yesterday

THE impasse in Haiti deepened at the weekend when a delegation from the Organisation of American States failed to persuade the country's military leaders to reinstate Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the democratically-elected president they overthrew last Monday.

One senior Western diplomat acknowledged that little progress had been made during two days of non-stop meetings at Port-au-Prince airport. The delegation of seven foreign ministers plus Bernard Aronson, American assistant secretary of state, may yet return to Haiti for further negotiations, but Carlos Huralde, the Bolivian foreign minister, pointedly drew reporters' attention to last week's OAS resolution authorising "other measures" if Father Aristide was not reinstated voluntarily.

General Raoul Cedras, the army's commander in chief, presented the delegation with a list of constitutional violations allegedly committed by Father Aristide during his seven months in power. He

proposed that the chief justice of the Haitian Supreme Court form an interim administration that would organise new elections within 90 days.

That proposal did not impress the OAS delegation. "That may be Cedras's position but it is certainly not the view of the OAS," one member said. Señor Huralde said the delegation was adhering strictly to its mandate, which demanded the return of the first democratically elected president in Haiti's 187-year history and offered "very little leeway" for compromise.

The Haitian army has begun a public relations offensive to justify its coup. At a press conference, General Cedras accused Father Aristide of inciting mob violence, and compared his rule to that of the Duvaliers' dictatorship. He called the coup a "correction of the democratic process", insisting that he had not made himself head of state.

Some of Fr Aristide's political supporters, including René Preval, the prime minister, came out of hiding to

address the OAS delegation, which also met a number of prominent Haitian politicians and business leaders who opposed his return in spite of his massive support among the Haitian masses. "Obviously this is a very complex, sensitive problem," Señor Huralde said.

The charges against Fr Aristide include the intimidation and bypassing of parliament, failure to condemn the assassination of opponents and training a personal militia. Western diplomats say the charges are not entirely without foundation, but are far outweighed by his achievements. Three days before the coup, however, Fr Aristide allegedly condoned the "necklacing" of those who opposed the peoples' will, telling a meeting in one of Port-au-Prince's poorest areas that a burning tyre around the neck was a "beautiful device".

With most Haitians still enraged by Fr Aristide's overthrow, mass at St Jean Bosco, the Catholic church where he first preached his fiery liberation theology to oppressed

Haitians, was cancelled yesterday out of fear that it would lead to further violence. Elsewhere in this predominantly Catholic city attendance at mass was only a fraction of normal.

One week after the coup, the ban on public meetings continues. All but one government-controlled radio station have now been shut down. There is relative calm in the city during the day but gunfire can still be heard at night. The OAS delegation refused to stay in Port-au-Prince on Friday night, flying instead to Kingston, Jamaica, and returning on Saturday. The banks have been shut for a week and many Haitians, especially outside the capital, are running out of money.

General Cedras said 20 soldiers had died during last week's fighting, but there is still no reliable figure for the number of civilian casualties. The capital's only public hospital was reporting 372 dead or wounded at the start of the weekend. Most local reports suggest that at least 200 people died.

## WELLINGTON NOTEBOOK

## Even the All Blacks may not lift gloom

It may be something to do with the severity of the southern winter, which at one stage forced South Island children to ice-skate to school along the streets and froze the fleeces of sheep to the snow on the ground, but New Zealand is undergoing a bout of melancholia.

The depression stems mainly from economic stagnation, severe economic restructuring and the government's hatchet-cut on the welfare state. But the gloom became all-pervading when All Black No. 8 and vice-captain Mike Brewer was left out of the World Cup rugby squad because of injury.

After 10 years of slow or negative growth, New Zealanders realise that the economy is in recession, but have not got round to accepting that, as a result, the good times are over. Accordingly there has been continuing outrage over the National government's moves to slash the welfare state and balance the budget. By first cutting benefits, then targeting them to those in need and then forcing the better off to pay for doctors'

visits, prescriptions, their initial hospital costs and much of their children's tertiary education, the government has attracted an avalanche of dissent.

Although elected less than a year ago in a landslide, the National party won only 22 per cent support in the latest opinion poll, the lowest ever recorded for a governing party.

Each day brings new hardship stories and government embarrassment. A widow tells a parliamentary committee she sometimes lives on cabbage for days as she has barely £2 a week for all expenses beyond food and rent. Unemployment is running at 10 per cent, unprecedented for New Zealand, and in a small town north of Wellington, 200 people apply for a car cleaning job, with some applicants bursting into tears when they are rejected. But the government argues that economic recovery is on the way, with inflation down to 2.8 per cent and mortgage rates to around 11 per cent.

Richard Long

## A wedding made in Hollywood for Elizabeth Taylor

FROM WILLIAM CASH IN LOS ANGELES

DIVORCED, ditto, died, divorced, ditto, ditto, place your bets... Elizabeth Taylor VIII, the movie, with an estimated budget of \$1.5 million (£860,000), took place yesterday as the film star married for the eighth time at pop singer Michael Jackson's luxurious ranch in Los Olivos, California.

Her new husband is Larry Fortensky, aged 39, a construction worker who is facing two charges of drunk driving. Miss Taylor, 20 years his senior, is understood to have proposed over a hamburger. Heralded by the *National Enquirer* as the "wedding to end all weddings", yesterday's supporting cast of 150 was supposed to have included the

Reagans, Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope, Madonna, Gerald and Betty Ford (at whose clinic the romance began in 1988) and Gregory Peck. Seeing who had and who had not turned up was impossible as convoys of smoked-glass limousines swept through the towering gates. Best man was Hollywood's pony-tailed hairdresser Jose Eber.

Despite saying last year that she would not remarry, Miss Taylor has said that she wanted yesterday's ceremony to be her best yet - whatever the cost. She spent £1,400 on a five-tier chocolate fudge cake decorated with purple orchids from Fantasy Frostings of Beverly Hills.

She wore a £13,000 daffodil-yellow silk Valentino dress with a specially-ordered plunging neckline, the same colour she wore in 1964 when she married Richard Burton for the first time. Guests were apparently asked not to wear yellow as well as not to bring a camera.

The service took place in an orchid-strewn gazebo and was conducted by Marianne Williamson, a New Age love guru who, like Miss Taylor, once relied heavily on drugs. After the couple made their marriage vows (a nuptial contract was supposedly signed a few days before) hundreds of white doves and balloons were released into the warm evening sky.

Then the newlyweds sailed across Jackson's lake on a swan-shaped boat. NBC television reported that a journalist had trained as a scuba diver to infiltrate the event with waterproof cameras.

Eighty guards patrolled the zoological grounds from 6am. One newspaper ordered its reporter to hire animal suits to try to roam unnoticed among Jackson's collection of animals.

Attempts by Miss Taylor's aides to get the airspace above the grounds designated a no-go area "for reasons of national security" failed at the last minute. A flock of helicopters viewed the proceedings from a few hundred feet, with cameramen hanging by ropes to get zoom shots with huge lenses.

Away from the revelry, three violinists played romantic music as the couple entered their honeymoon suite on the Jackson estate. At least the newlyweds will be spared hangovers. As reformed alcoholics, they will have been sipping juice or mineral water while their guests downed champagne.

One question that remained unanswered is the cost of the ring. A cynic would say it all depended on how much Liz wanted to spend.

## Judge in sex claim

Washington - A former assistant to Judge Clarence Thomas, the conservative nominee to the US Supreme Court, has told the Senate committee she was sexually harassed by him several years ago, according to an interview with National Public Radio.

An FBI investigation "determined that the allegation was unfounded", the White House told the NPR. Judge Thomas has denied indulging in sexual harassment.

Anita Hill, a law professor, said the judge invited her out several times in the early 1980s. When she declined, he described pornographic film scenes to her, she said. (AP)

## Dhaka aid plea

Dhaka - The Bangladesh government appealed to international charities for help in fighting famine and an epidemic in the flood-ravaged northern region. Repeated floods during the monsoon have washed away food and shelter in the poverty-stricken area.

## Singer killed

Moscow - A popular Soviet singer, Igor Talkov, was shot dead while giving a concert in St Petersburg. An unknown assailant shot Talkov, aged 35, in the heart at point-blank range in the city's sports stadium. The singer had a large following, particularly among teenagers. (Reuters)

## Poaching fall

Nairobi - Elephant numbers in Kenya's Tsavo park, 200 miles southeast of Nairobi, are no longer falling due to poaching, an EC-funded survey showed. (Reuters)



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## German refuge turns hostile

POLITICAL leaders seeking a quick way to stamp out growing support for the extreme right appeared powerless at the weekend as violent attacks on foreigners continued throughout Germany. The attacks were widespread and varied.

In the west there was a symbolic attack on democracy, as the Rhineland grave of Konrad Adenauer, the first chancellor of the former West Germany, was daubed with a swastika. In the east stone stars, broken from the war graves of Russian soldiers, were flung through the windows of a hostel. Windows in a Soviet married quarters were also smashed. Cars and property belonging to foreigners all seemed to be at risk. Attacks were not confined to asylum seekers from Third World or East European countries. Two Italians were beaten up in Hesse and a Portuguese restaurant in Hamburg was set alight. Swastikas and right-wing propaganda were found after several attacks.

Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, meeting with political allies during a two-day closed session at Banz in Bavaria, agreed to try to blame the violence on the Free Democrats (FDP), ju-

Germany is struggling to contain the number of refugees and the growth of the far right, Ian Murray writes

nior partners in the government coalition, and on the opposition Social Democrats (SPD). The meeting of leading Christian Democrats (CDU) and members of the Bavarian-based Christian Social Union (CSU), agreed that the huge number of unjustified asylum seekers was provoking violence and that economic refugees could be kept out only by changing the constitution. Both the FDP and SPD refuse to back any amendment, and without their

support it will be impossible to achieve the necessary two-thirds majority.

However, the CDU and CSU see a political advantage in confronting the Bundestag over the issue as it will make it clear who is blocking the amendment. More than 70 per cent of the population supports the change according to opinion polls. The chancellor attacked his political rivals over the issue last week in a speech to mark German unification, and the tactic

already appears to be paying off. The SPD lost heavily in last week's state elections in Bremen. Herr Kohl's CDU picked up most of that support but an extreme right-wing group also won a handful of seats. A poll this weekend showed that the CDU/CSU had overtaken the SPD for the first time this year.

Björn Engholm, the SPD leader, however, is determined not to give way. He said that any change in the law would destroy Germany's reputation as a place of refuge and, at the same time, encourage the far right. In practice, Herr Kohl and his allies will have to work with the SPD and FDP in tackling the problem.

One move that already has approval is to send back all asylum seekers to any democratic country they pass through on their way to Germany. This could reduce the numbers by up to a half. Another idea, which the chancellor supports, is for the European Community to share the number of asylum seekers between member states. At present Germany is accommodating nearly half of those arriving in Europe and almost two-thirds of all those reaching the EC.

Year	Asylum seekers	Ethnic Germans	East Germans	Total
1984	35,278	36,489	38,555	110,322
1985	73,852	38,968	28,546	141,366
1986	99,650	42,788	28,191	170,629
1987	57,379	78,523	18,961	154,863
1988	103,076	202,573	39,532	345,181
1989	121,318	377,055	343,854	842,227
1990	193,063	397,075	238,384	828,522
1991	168,785	(260,000)	(22,500)	(651,222)
Total	853,382	1,173,541	732,223	2,559,146
		(1,423,541)	(614,723)	(2,938,264)

Figures in brackets an estimate of ongoing trend  
1991 figures up to September



Off the rails: rescuers work on the wreckage of a steam train that crashed after apparent brake failure near Liège, Belgium, killing seven people

## Katyn veteran tells of secret police murders

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

SOVIET army prosecutors have discovered chilling new evidence of the murder by Stalin's secret police of 15,000 Polish officers in April 1940, and say they now have enough proof to prosecute two former NKVD officers who carried out the murders.

Vladimir Tokaryev, now aged 89, has given an account of his role in the murder of about 6,000 Polish officers captured by Soviet forces in September 1939. In a taped interview brought back from Moscow by Lord Bethell, a Conservative MEP, he described how executioners sent on the direct orders of the Communist party's politburo shot the Poles, one by one, in a soundproof prison cell, at the rate of 250 a night for a month.

One group of Poles was taken from their camp to a prison in Kalinin, north of Moscow, where three executioners arrived with a caseful of German revolvers, considered more efficient than Soviet weapons. Mr Tokaryev's account, published yesterday in the Observer, said: "I was there the first night they did the shooting. Blokhin [one of the officers sent from Moscow] was the main killer, with about 30 others, mainly NKVD drivers and guards... I remember Blokhin saying: 'Come on, let's go.' And then he put on his special uniform for the job: brown leather hat, brown leather apron, long brown leather gloves reaching above the elbows. They were his terrible trade marks. I realised that I was face to face with a true executioner."

"They took the Poles along the corridor, one by one, turned left and took them into the Red Corner, the rest room for prison staff. Each man was asked his surname, first name and date of birth - just to identify him. Then he was taken to the room next door, which was soundproofed, and shot in the back of the head."

Mr Tokaryev went on to say that nothing was read to them, no decision of any court or special commission. The executions were all carried out under cover of darkness, and the bodies taken out by a back door, loaded into covered lorries and taken to a burial ditch already dug by an excavator. The executioners were given a supply of vodka after each night's shooting.

"When it was all over, the three men from Moscow organised a big banquet to celebrate. They kept pestering me, insisting I should attend. But I refused," Mr Tokaryev told his interrogators.

The operation was organised by Fyodor Soprunenko, now aged 83, who signed many of the orders transferring Poles to the NKVD for mass execution. Lord Bethell said he has refused to admit his role as interrogators, maintaining he does not remember details, and proving evasive when confronted with proof. The Soviet investigation began last November, after Moscow's public admission before President Gorbachev went to Warsaw, that it was the Soviet Union which murdered the officers, and not the Nazi invaders as Moscow insisted for 50 years after a mass grave was discovered at Katyn.

The investigators have questioned 100 people involved in the murders, and have *prima facie* evidence against Mr Soprunenko and Mr Tokaryev, but cannot prosecute them because, under a statute of limitations, murder charges cannot be pressed after 15 years. The Russian Federation is willing to change the law to allow prosecution of Stalin-era crimes, like Nazi atrocities.

But hardliners in the army and the KGB have been trying to block the investigation. Lord Bethell, who visited the military prosecutor two weeks ago, said yesterday he would be pressing the Soviet authorities to bring charges. Stalin's murder of the Poles was passed over by Britain during the war and the subsequent Nuremberg trials in order not to antagonise the Soviet Union.

The Polish officers were captured after Poland was invaded simultaneously by Soviet and German forces. They were held in several camps until 1940, when a secret politburo decision, personally signed by Stalin, ordered them to be shot. It was sent to the head of the NKVD, which carried out the executions in three areas: Katyn, in western Russia; Starobelsk, in Ukraine; and Ostashkov. The list of names was drawn up and signed by Mr Soprunenko.

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Unpopular Cresson runs out of time

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

TRAMPLING on Edith Cresson's political and private person is becoming something of a blood sport in France, and it says much about the prime minister's inner toughness that she soldiers on regardless. But as her standing in opinion polls sinks ever lower - only one in five voters now thinks she is up to the job - and Socialist party colleagues joke bleakly of going down with the Titanic, there is serious doubt about Mme Cresson's ability to stay the course much beyond next spring.

To the multitude of angry farmers who marched through Paris a week ago, she was definitely fair game, even if the message of some placards, touching indelicately upon her relations with President Mitterrand, resists translation for a family newspaper. For most of the demonstrators, the elegant Mme Cresson - a former minister of agriculture and not much loved in the countryside even then - is the epitome of *la gauche caviare*, knowing little of the real France beyond Paris, and caring even less.

If that is a harsh judgment, she can find little relief in a new survey purporting to measure the respect and affection in which the French hold their most prominent personalities which relegates her to fifth and last place. The comparative popularity of Michel Rocard, her immediate predecessor, and Jacques Delors, whom many expect to replace her, must have stung. The table showed that President Mitterrand, famously sensitive to popular judgment and now faring almost as badly as his prime minister, has lost a little ground. In the circumstances, the murmurs from his advisers about Mme Cresson's likely demise cannot be discounted.

If leaks to the French press are to be believed, next March could be a date for her departure: awkward enough



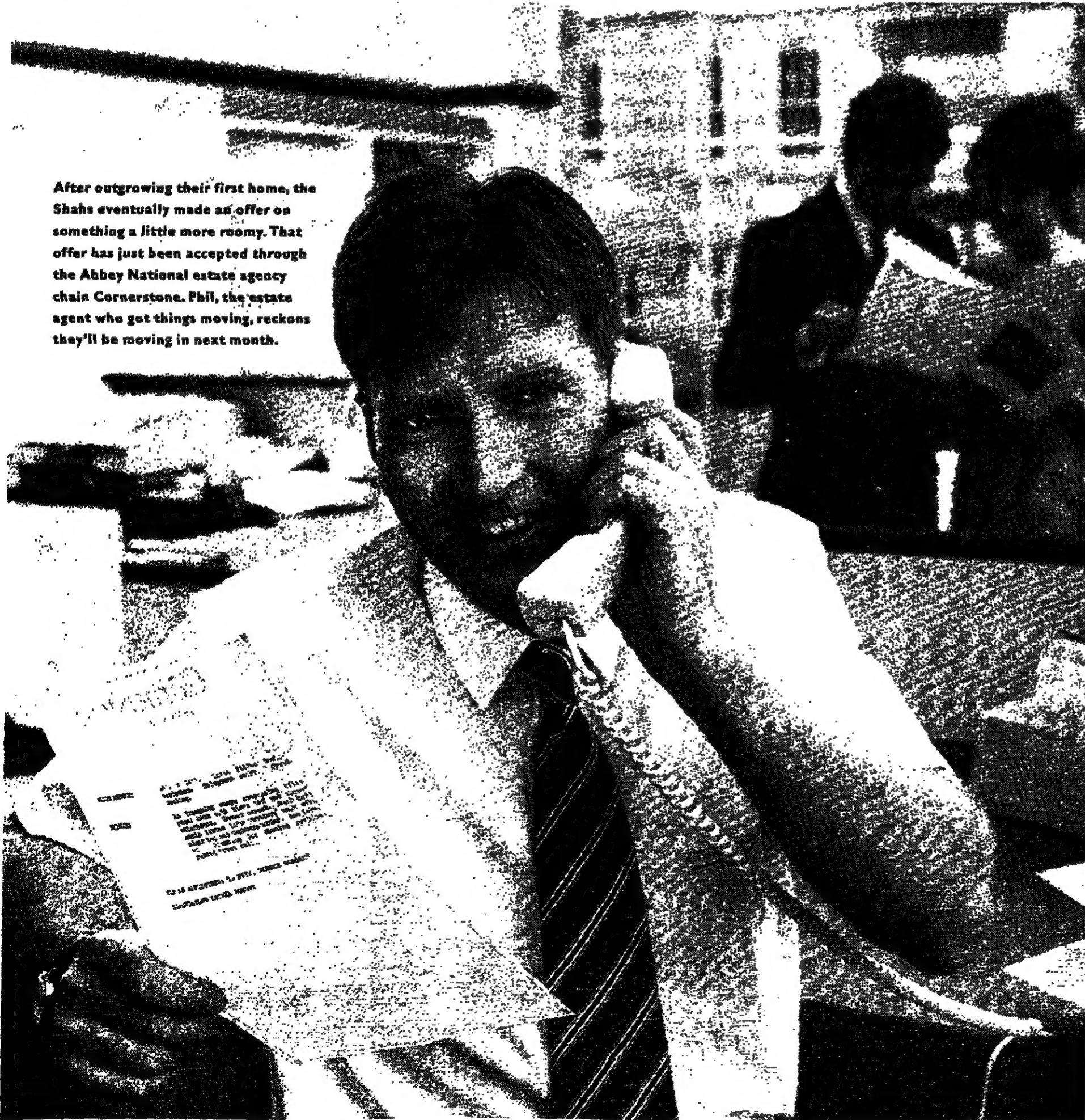
Cresson: soldiering on regardless of polls

grindingly technical address with which she dismayed admirers on first taking office.

Of course, if there was any justice in French politics, Mitterrand would be alongside Mme Cresson in the dock today, not least because it was he who foisted her upon the country four months ago, knowing better than most her strengths and limitations. Whether he can bring himself to jettison his protégée after so short a period remains to be seen, but nobody would accuse him of being unwilling to reach for the axe when the moment demands it, as M Rocard can testify.

# It's theirs

After outgrowing their first home, the Shahs eventually made an offer on something a little more roomy. That offer has just been accepted through the Abbey National estate agency chain Cornerstone. Phil, the estate agent who got things moving, reckons they'll be moving in next month.



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## Democratic runners line up in the US

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

BY THE end of this month, George Bush is likely to see the line-up of serious Democratic challengers in next year's US presidential elections, or those who have raised substantially more than the minimum \$5,000 required by law to launch a formal campaign. Still teasing are the Rev Jesse Jackson, the black civil rights activist, and Jerry Brown, a former but unexciting governor of California.

Mr Jackson is playing a familiar trick of refusing to say exactly what his plans are. But Cable News Network television recently let him know that executives cannot wait much longer for him to decide between the campaign podium and a job as host on one of their weekly talk-show programmes. Mr Jackson has failed twice to secure his party's nomination to run for the White House. Apart from

considering his pride, which rarely shows signs of damage, he is under significant pressure from moderate Democrats to sit out this race. Mr Brown, meanwhile, suffers from what is politely known as a lack of "name-recognition", or a greyness of delivery that sets him down the list alongside Paul Tsongas, a former Massachusetts senator, whose campaign already has started to fizzle.

Among those advising Mr Jackson to stay away are Douglas Wilder, his chief rival, who was elected the country's first black state governor two years ago. The Virginia politician met Mr Jackson last month to try to persuade him that his Baptist-inspired preaching style and liberal civil-rights messages could drive away rather than win converts to the Democratic party. The collective nervousness about Mr Jackson's potential impact on the Democratic cause comes as Mr Wilder and others are trying to play down the party's traditional links to higher taxes and special interest groups, including minorities.

The shift away from liberalism is likely to count against candidate Tom Harkin, a US senator from Iowa, who woos farmers and trade unions with a dated but often effective populist battle cry of justice for the little person and a dismissal of Mr Bush as an East Coast rich boy who made good on wits and wealth.

Despite a high public approval rating, Mr Bush has begun to show signs that he, too, thinks the 1992 presidential campaign is under way. Several days ago, he hastily called a news conference at the White House to stress that he really does care about domestic issues despite a lingering image as far more interested in foreign affairs. Over the weekend, his sources also let slip that the first of a dozen official fund-raisers in coming weeks for the George Bush-Dan Quayle re-election campaign would take place in Houston, Texas, on 30 October, even though a formal announcement is not predicted until at least January.

The small field of opponents grew to the expected Big Five last week with the addition of Bill Clinton, a boyish-faced governor of Arkansas. An eloquent orator, Mr Clinton began his national political career as America's youngest governor and today is regarded as a possible front-runner in Democrats' efforts to appeal to a sense of economic downward drift among the middle class. Ahead of him by three days with a similar refrain of "generational renewal" was Bob Kerrey, a junior senator from Nebraska.

## West Bank leaders to see Baker

From REUTER IN AMMAN

JAMES Baker, the American Secretary of State, will meet Palestinian leaders from the West Bank this week to offer new assurances on proposed peace talks with Israel, according to the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Two of the Palestinians, Hanaan Ashrawi and Faisal Husseini, have been waiting in London for an invitation to Washington to discuss obstacles to the peace conference, scheduled for this month. Yesterday Yasser Abed-Rabbo, of the PLO executive, said: "There will be a meeting this week in Washington between Baker and the Palestinian delegation."

Mr Abed-Rabbo said that a letter of assurances would be discussed and that the Americans had promised to include some new elements. He added that the PLO would not budge from the demand that its delegation should include a Palestinian from Jerusalem.

Israel refuses to deal with Palestinians from East Jerusalem, annexed after the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, because it fears their presence could call into question the status of the city, which Palestinians see as the future capital.



Mudlark: a happy participant in the Frog and Toad Mud Olympics in Hong Kong laughing after throwing himself into the annual event, organised by a brewery

## New York back in the limelight

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE steaming sewer grates and gaping pot-holes of New York are known and loved by cinema-goers around the globe. But few will have noticed that some of those mean streets are no longer really in the Big Apple.

Gotham, as the city is affectionately known in the film business after the towering metropolis in *Batman*, is struggling to attract movie-makers back after a seven-month-long strike of film unions that sent Hollywood producers packing to similar urban landscapes in Chicago and Toronto.

Although the strike ended in mid-May, the summer holiday and the glacial pace of Hollywood planning mean that the first big feature film crews are only now venturing back on to New York's streets. Unless the city can lure back its business—which produced 14 feature films last year before the strike began—it will fade from the silver screen.

During the dispute, the only big studio production in New York was Woody Allen's *Shadows and Fog*. It was just too improbable to place Allen, the archetypal New Yorker, in a look-alike exile. At least ten other films were steered away

by the strike. The mayor's office of film estimates that the city lost at least \$100 million (£57 million) during the long hiatus.

First indications are that many film people are only too happy to return to New York. The film union made concessions on weekend and night-time filming. Spike Lee has begun filming his \$25 million film of Malcolm X, Sidney Lumet has started an Hassidic detective story titled *Close to Eden*, and the New York-born director Paul Mazursky has rolled on a new film called *The Pickle*. Also expected in town soon are film crews for *Night and the City* starring Robert De Niro, *Scenes of a Woman* with Al Pacino, *Boomerang* with Eddie Murphy and the comedian Billy Crystal's directorial debut *Mr Saturday Night*. Woody Allen, of course, has also set his latest, as yet untitled, project in the city.

The average New Yorker, however, remains his normal blasé self, insisting that the return of the film crews only worsens traffic grid-lock. "Film crews assume they will be treated like apostles," wrote one irate resident of Greenwich Village in *The New York Times*.

## Peacenik jailed in Israel

From RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

AN ISRAELI court in Ramla yesterday sentenced a veteran Jewish peace campaigner to 18 months in prison after he admitted meeting Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and vowed that he would do so again.

The stiff sentence was imposed on Abie Nathan, aged 64, a former RAF fighter pilot and advocate of direct talks between Israel and the PLO. It was seen as a warning to other Israeli and Palestinian public figures that the mainstream guerrilla organisation can never be rehabilitated or legitimised in the eyes of the Israeli authorities.

Nathan's exploits first attracted international attention when he piloted a plane to Egypt in 1966 on a solo peace flight. This summer he fasted for 40 days in protest at the ban on contact with the PLO.



Nathan: leaving the court in Ramla yesterday

## India's underdogs learn to fight back

Harijans, already at the centre of a dispute over government jobs, are demanding that even their name is changed, Christopher Thomas writes

India's 200 million outcasts are winning a fight not to be called Harijans—children of God—the well-meaning name bestowed on them by Mahatma Gandhi. For half a century they have quietly hated the word.

The big central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh is the latest to ban its use in all official business, and many newspapers are also dropping it. For some high-caste Hindus this is another distressing example of pandering to the increasingly restive lower castes. Some say it is an affront to Gandhi's generous gesture.

Gandhi introduced the word Harijan as an alternative to "untouchable", which outcasts found offensive. But many felt the new word was just as degrading as the old one, since Harijan traditionally described the children of temple prostitutes.

The outcasts want to be called Dalits, which means "the oppressed". The word has been used for years to describe militant Harijans, although the broader meaning is gaining currency.

Kanshi Ram, the leading campaigner for the rights of outcasts, said the term Harijan described the children of temple dancing girls known as *dev dasis* (servants of God) and was regarded by Dalits as derogatory. "Brah-

minism creates many evils and the *dev dasis* are one of them," he added. "Brahmin priests used to ask for young girls to be brought to the temple for sex, dancing and general service in the temple. There are still thousands of these girls in the Bombay and Poona region."

Mr Ram, who heads a party called the Bahujan Samaj with one MP, uses the word "bahujan", meaning majority, to describe Dalits, tribals and the backward castes, accounting for 640 million people, three-quarters of the population.

Another caste controversy has been caused by a government announcement that 25 per cent of public sector jobs will be reserved for backward castes, and 10 per cent for poorer sections of upper castes. This is in addition to 27 per cent already reserved—in theory at least—for Dalits and tribals, leaving only 38 per cent for the remaining upper castes.

The move was announced with an eye to 19 parliamentary by-elections expected to be held next month. Upper-caste students, led by Rajeev Goswami, a Brahmin who set fire to himself a year ago in protest against job quotas, are campaigning against the proposals.

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## Croatia mobilises as return of Yugoslavia's heir stirs Serbian nationalism

## Zagreb sounds general alert as war nears

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN ZAGREB AND TOM WALKER IN HAARLEM

THOUSANDS of young Croats were mobilised at emergency call-up centres yesterday as the vicious civil war between Serbs and Croats approached the gates of the capital, Zagreb, with its nearly one million people. In the Netherlands, European Community foreign ministers accepted that diplomacy was failing and considered urgent economic sanctions to help end the fighting, with Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, urging measures against the warring republics.

The call-up was ordered by Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian president, in a dramatic midnight broadcast made as both sides exchanged contradictory letters regarding the latest European Community brokered truce. Throughout the



day the streets of Zagreb shook as heavy artillery fired less than 20 miles to the southwest. By nightfall there had been three air raid alerts. Windows shook as Yugoslav air force MiGs broke the sound barrier during one raid. As a blackout came into effect at 6pm the sirens sounded for a fourth time and officials claimed that the jets had hit a target only ten miles from the city centre. Hasty new reinforcements were placed on strategic roads leading to the capital including new anti-tank mines. During one air raid alert, small arms fire was heard near a city centre bathed in autumnal sunshine and officials warned that Serbian snipers were operating from

high rise buildings. Announcing the call-up, Mr Tudjman told the 4.5 million Croats: "The greater Serbian imperialists and the blood thirsty remnants of the Yugoslav communist military crossed over to a general attack on Croatia, violating all international ceasefire agreements. This demands that we mobilise all our forces in a defensive war."

General Andrija Raseta, the senior Yugoslav general in Zagreb described the broadcast as "a request for total war". He said his heavily armed troops would respond if Yugoslav barracks in the city were attacked.

In the Netherlands, Mr Hurd urged measures that could cause the warring republics short-term harm. He asked Greece to consider cutting the oil pipe line that runs through Macedonia. He hoped Czechoslovakia and Hungary would consider preventing oil barges reaching Yugoslavia.

The ministers agreed that unless the ceasefire is restored the EC will cut its Co-operation and Trade Agreement with Yugoslavia. But Mr Hurd said this measure "would not be effective in the short term". Nor did he hold out much hope that a total trade embargo against Yugoslavia could be implemented quickly, because such a move would need United Nations approval. The EC ministers invited Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, to consider sending a special envoy to Yugoslavia this week.

Croatia and Slovenia have both said they will begin independence preparations today. Mr Hurd had harsh words for the federal army. "The army that is meant to protect its citizens is now their main oppressor."

Zagreb on alert, page 1



Flying the flag: a Croat woman showing her allegiance during a demonstration in support of Croatian independence in Trafalgar Square, London, yesterday

## Montenegrins join city siege

FROM TIM JUDAH IN GRUDA, CROATIA

A PALL of smoke several miles across lay over the mountain tops south of Dubrovnik as the Yugoslav army tightened its grip around the city over the weekend.

Scores of forest fires blazed. Smoke poured from Croatian hill villages, and burnt-out lorries and cars lay scattered along the main road. Units from the neighbouring republic of Montenegro smashed through Croat positions in the full belief that it was their duty to liberate Dubrovnik from the grip of "Croatian fascism".

"We don't want to take Dubrovnik," said one Montenegrin soldier. "All we want to do is to go in and kill all the Ustashi there." The Ustasha was Croatia's second world war fascist force and the name is now used by Croatia's enemies to describe the government in Zagreb.

Eating a freshly roasted lamb on a captured farm, a unit of Montenegrins, historic allies of the Serbs, laughed when asked about the latest ceasefire. Miodrag, aged 25, a construction worker before

the war, said: "[Franjo] Tudjman [the Croatian president] always signs those when he needs time." Another chimed in: "Tudjman is fighting us so we must fight back. He is Hitler."

With the meal barely over, the command came for their unit to advance. Ten neatly laid-out mortar bombs were packed back into their boxes, guns were collected and the men began to move out. Trodden into the mud lay a copy of Tito's thoughts on agriculture.

## Belgrade embraces exiled monarch

Crown Prince Alexander, heir to the Serbian throne, returned to Belgrade with the aim of encouraging democracy, Anne McElvoy writes

THE exiled heir to the Yugoslav throne returned home at the weekend to a rapturous welcome from the people of Belgrade and shouts of "Long live the king".

Thousands turned out at the airport to meet him, many brandishing the white two-headed eagle, symbol of the Karadjordje dynasty. Burly, paramilitary men, provided by opposition groups who had invited Crown Prince Alexander, fought in vain to control the surge of the crowds as they chanted "Serbia for ever" and "Come back to us".

The prince was presented with the traditional gift of bread and salt. The old Serbian national anthem rang out for the first time since the monarchy was abolished by Marshal Tito's communists in 1945. Veterans from both world wars bearing their medals wept and vied to touch the prince. Gacsa Toma, aged 95 who was a Serbian officer in the first world war, said: "This is the happiest day in my life. I always knew that he would come back but I despaired when it took so long. I can die a contented man now. Our king has come back to us."

Prince Alexander, a London businessman, kissed soil brought from Topola, the seat of the Karadjordjevic dynasty that ruled Serbia from 1804. His father, King Peter II, fled to England in 1941 but never abdicated. Prince Alexander was born four years later in a suite in London's Claridges hotel. As the heirs to the dynasty are required to have been born on Yugoslav soil, the British government agreed to the king's request to declare a suite of the hotel Yugoslav territory for the day.

On the flight from Zurich, he was accompanied by his wife, Princess Katharine, and their three sons. Prince Alexander was guarded about the purpose of his visit, restricting his comments to

calls for a peaceful end to the conflict. "I want to encourage the growth of democracy in Yugoslavia. The country can only find a way out of its crisis via the conference room and not on the battle field." He admitted to being slightly nervous about what would await him at the other end.

He was cautious about pledging a return of the monarchy. "That is a very difficult and sensitive question," he said. "If I can encourage the democratic process and serve as a unifying figure, I will feel that I have answered the call of my country," he stated.

But while he was intent on emphasising the conciliatory nature of his visit, the supporters who accompanied him wherever he went left no doubt about the nationalist undertone of the visit, which is being viewed with appre



Alexander: a traditional gift of bread and salt

hension in Croatia. On Saturday, the prince still seemed rather bemused at his welcome and vague about the purpose of his visit. He had handed over the public relations work to Tim Bell, who ran Mrs Thatcher's campaigns in the latter half of her premiership. Yesterday, however, he gained visibly in confidence as the day went on. When he laid a wreath on the tomb of his grandfather King Alexander, assassinated in Marseilles in 1934, he wept.

## Portugal goes to the polls

Lisbon - Portugal voted in general elections yesterday, with the ruling centre-right Social Democratic party confident of retaining power thanks to its record of economic growth and rising living standards.

The main challenge to Anibal Cavaco Silva, the prime minister, comes from the Socialist party. Opinion polls showed the socialists improving on their dismal performance in 1987, when they won just 60 seats, but nearly all predicted that the social democrats would retain their majority in the new 230-seat parliament, which will be 20 seats smaller than the old legislature. (Reuters)

## Karamanlis ill

Athens - Constantine Karamanlis, president of Greece, entered hospital for tests after suffering high blood pressure and feeling faint. Doctors said the former prime minister, aged 84, was stable but needed more tests. He began a five-year term as president in 1990. (Reuters)

## Tirana march

Belgrade - About 30,000 protesters in Tirana, Albania, called for President Alla's resignation and the arrest of former communist leaders, an opposition leader said. Led by Sali Berisha of the Albanian Democratic party, the marchers also called for the arrest of the widow of Enver Hoxha, the former dictator. (AFP)

## Egyptian find

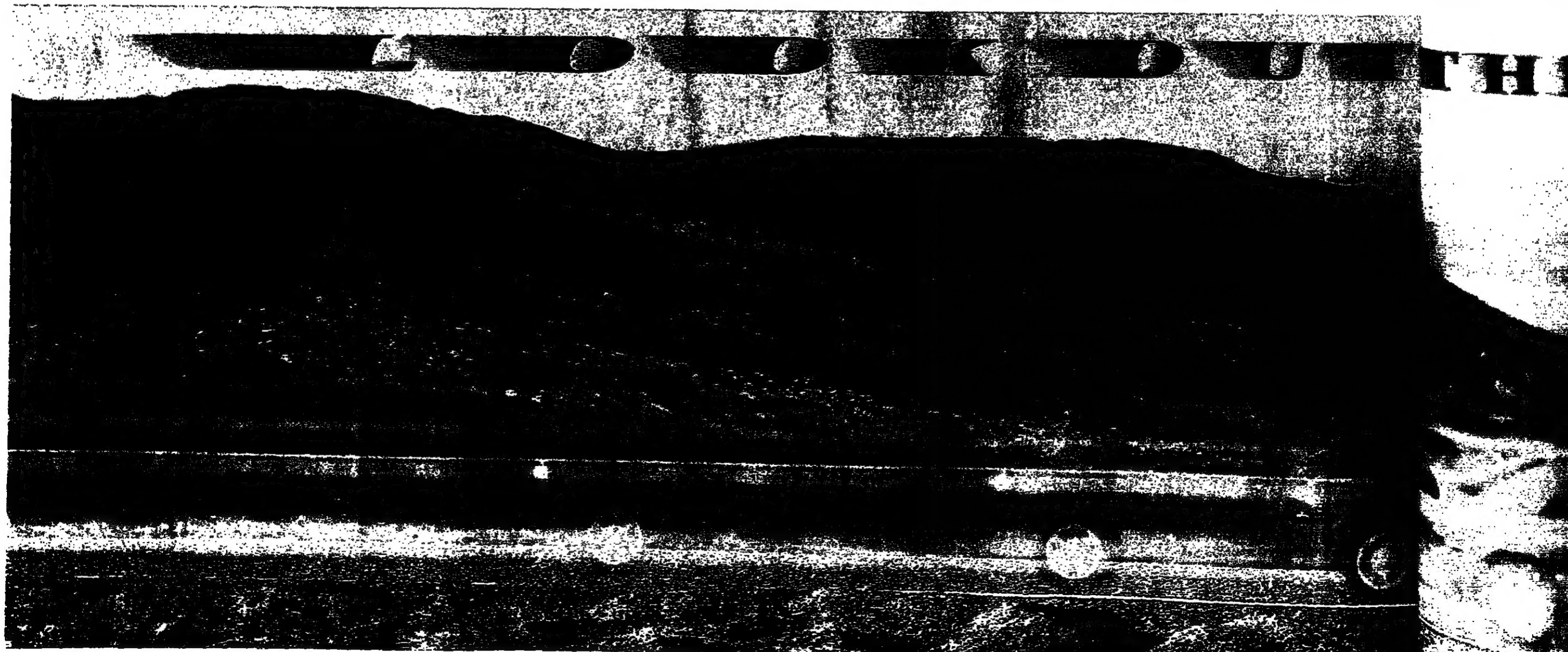
Cairo - German archaeologists have found a pyramid in the ancient Egyptian city of Luxor. The pyramid, built in 1400 BC, originally stood up to nine metres high and housed the tomb of a high-priest of the god Amun. Parts of the outside have collapsed but much of the interior is in good condition. (Reuters)

## Smoking ban

Paris - France looks set to ban smoking in cinemas, lifts, taxis, parts of restaurants and other public places to reduce passive smoking. Offenders will be fined up to 2,500 francs (£260). (Reuters)

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# Gorbachev paves way for deep cuts in nuclear arsenal

From CHARLES BREMNER in MOSCOW AND SUSAN ELLICOTT in WASHINGTON

AMERICAN and Soviet officials met in Moscow yesterday to consider in detail the thousands of nuclear weapons to be abandoned or curbed in the latest round of arms reductions. At the weekend President Gorbachev announced cuts that exceeded those proposed by President Bush ten days ago.

Mr Bush welcomed the Soviet proposals as "very good news for the whole world", but he was more cautious about Mr Gorbachev's suggestions for a US-Soviet summit and a moratorium on 50 years of nuclear testing.

American officials believe Mr Gorbachev is keen to meet Mr Bush to reassess his role as Kremlin leader after the failed right-wing coup against him in August. Mr Bush said, however, that Washington had "some areas we need to iron out" on arms initiatives before he would agree to a summit. He did not rule out the principle of a summit. The two leaders last met in Moscow in July, when they signed an accord to cut sharply their stockpiles of long-range nuclear weapons.

World leaders yesterday hailed Mr Gorbachev's response to the Bush initiative as the completion of an historic shift away from the suspicion and confrontation that governed relations between the two nuclear giants for four decades. By matching Mr Bush's cuts, mainly involving the abandonment of short-range weapons, and then exceeding them by including 1,000 strategic warheads, the Soviet leader seemed to pave the way for a chain of reciprocal actions that could eventually cut deep into the long-range arsenals of each side.

In London, John Major said Mr Gorbachev's response marked a "turning-point in the peace process". He said that "there may be a unique opportunity to see a dramatic de-escalation in nuclear weapons", but he insisted that Britain's Trident missile programme would be maintained as a "minimum defence".

Mr Bush's initiative has had the effect of bolstering Mr Gorbachev's shaky authority. Diplomats said the president may have had this in mind, as Washington was becoming increasingly alarmed at the speed of the disintegration of the Soviet Union. The Bush offer has enabled Mr Gorbachev to assert his command over defence and foreign policy while the republics are all but ignoring him on domestic issues.

In his 12-minute address, delivered without notice at 10pm on Saturday, Mr Gorbachev exuded dignified statesmanship and credited himself with being the originator of the round of cuts. "George Bush's proposals continue the drive started in Reykjavik," he said, referring to his suggestion to Ronald Reagan in 1986 to cut the long-range nuclear arsenal by at least half. "I know that Boris Yeltsin and leaders of other republics share this opinion," he said.

Mr Gorbachev, who has been urged by most republican leaders to move faster on cuts in Soviet armed forces and weapons to reduce the financial burden on the country, renewed his call for a 50 per cent reduction in arms.

In Utrecht yesterday, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, told European Community foreign ministers that Britain did not envisage a "European army" as the key element of the community's defence and security. He said his proposed "European reaction force" would almost certainly use Nato troops and it would be able to respond to any Gulf-style conflict beyond the alliance's boundaries.

THE US OFFER	THE SOVIET OFFER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Destroy all ground-launched tactical nuclear weapons</li> <li>Remove all nuclear cruise missiles from warships and submarines</li> <li>Strategic bombers removed from alert</li> <li>Negotiations to eliminate land-based ICBM's with MIRV's</li> <li>ICBM's to be destroyed under START will be removed alert immediately</li> <li>Plan to put MX with 10 warheads on rail cars to be scrapped</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5,000 strategic warheads instead of 6,000 under START</li> <li>Immediate negotiations on further cuts of 50% in strategic offensive weapons</li> <li>Elimination of all nuclear artillery shells and warheads for tactical missiles</li> <li>Removal of all tactical nuclear weapons from ships and submarines</li> <li>Removal of all heavy bombers with nuclear weapons from alert</li> <li>One year moratorium on nuclear tests</li> <li>700,000 army jobs cut</li> <li>Stop work on modified short-range missile for heavy bombers and a small mobile ICBM</li> <li>Scrap plans for railway launched ICBM's</li> <li>600 ICBM's, including 134 ICBM's with MIRV warheads will be removed from alert</li> </ul>

Leading article, page 15



Out of harm's way: Sacha Volski, Ira Petrenko and Oksana Mechenko, three Chernobyl children who are among a party of 15 being given a holiday at Hazelwood House in south Devon this month

## Georgia seeks to avert war

From ROBERT SEELY in TBILISI

GEORGIA's parliament met yesterday in emergency session to find a solution to the clashes threatening to drag the republic into civil war.

After fighting on Saturday left 74 injured and at least two dead, deputies in Tbilisi have said that the current session of parliament is the last chance for a peaceful solution before prolonged conflict begins between the armed camps of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, the president, and his opponents.

Opposition groups, led by the Georgian Popular Front and the National Democratic party, are demanding television time, release of alleged political prisoners and curtailment of Mr Gamsakhurdia's sweeping powers. Significantly, some are no longer demanding his resignation.

A dozen Ossetians were taken hostage and several houses looted in Ossetian villages during the past three days, Tass said, quoting Ossetian sources. Eight people were hurt in Tskhinvali on Saturday when Georgians fired rockets. Ossetian volunteers returned fire. About 250 Ossetians have been killed, 480 injured and 112 reported missing since clashes erupted in the South Ossetian region of Georgia last December.

## Superpower initiative undermines Nato doctrine

THE proposals and counter-proposals on nuclear arms cuts from Washington and Moscow now place in doubt some of the most fundamental aspects of the strategic balance between the big powers.

As part of his weekend nuclear cuts package, President Gorbachev called on Nato to scrap its doctrine of flexible response under which the "enemy" is threatened with steadily rising nuclear retaliation, from tactical to long-range systems. Nato governments have stuck to this doctrine in spite of the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, arguing that the strategy has helped to keep the peace in Europe for more than 45

### Britain's determination to maintain a missile capability is threatened by unilateral cuts, Michael Evans writes

years. Now, with the United States and the Soviet Union agreeing to scrap all land-based tactical systems, consisting of nuclear artillery shells and short-range missiles, one layer of the flexible response inventory is to be removed.

Britain, with apparent American support, insists that air-launched systems should remain. But this argument has been weakened after the initiatives from President Bush and Mr Gorbachev. First, Mr Bush

cancelled the development of the US short-range attack missile (Sram), the tactical version of which (Sram-T) was the favoured system for replacing the RAF's ageing free-fall bombs. The government wants a tactical air-to-surface missile (Tasm) with a range of about 350 miles in service by the late 1990s.

Although Mr Bush said a tactical air-launch capability should be retained, he appeared somewhat vague. Mr Gorbachev included in his offer a promise to stop development of a modified short-range nuclear missile for Soviet strategic bombers, the equivalent of the American Sram system. He also said he would remove all tactical weapons from land-based naval aircraft. These moves are expected to be the first in a Soviet campaign to stop Nato, or Britain, deploying a new tactical air-launched missile.

So far, the British government has shown no inclination to cancel this RAF requirement. Later this month Nato defence ministers meeting in Sicily to discuss nuclear weapons and Britain is expected to maintain its

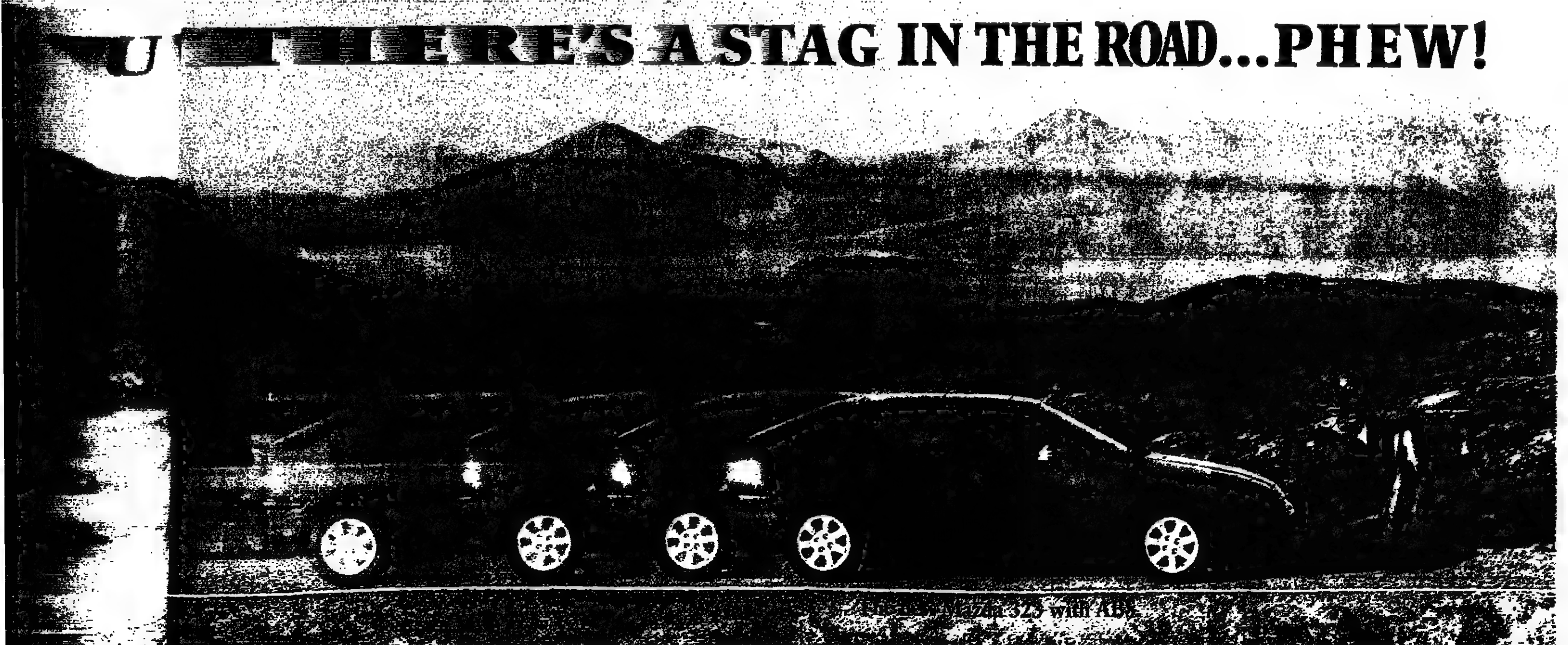
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Girls about town: Blackpool is the only British seaside resort where the tourists are getting younger every year, drawn by the nightclubs and more fruit machines than Las Vegas

## Party time in Blackpool

In Blackpool they prefer the pigeon fanciers who come in January, the ballroom dancing convention in June and even the Young Farmers' Convention in May to the Conservative party conference in October.

Not that they have anything against the Conservatives; it is just that they never see anything of them apart from the security. And people in Blackpool like to see their ten million visitors a year to make sure they are having a laugh and spending their money — £435 million last year.

As far as they are concerned the town is about fun, and all these political meetings do not sound much like entertainment to them. The 16,000 Tory faithful who descend on Blackpool every other year appear equally disdainful. They would prefer to be in Brighton or Bournemouth, so much closer to London. In Blackpool they spend the time between speeches at the Winter Gardens conference centre moaning about the lack of eating establishments.

One place that does see them is the Imperial Hotel. The Imperial is lush, plush and very non-Blackpool (183 rooms, £90 per night for a double, excluding meals). Enthroned beyond the North Pier, it rises above the glitter with its tasteful curtains and calorie-counted breakfasts. Everyone stays at the Imperial, or rather, everyone would like to.

"They are packed shoulder-to-shoulder," says Jayne Cole, the front of house manager. "They come here for tea after the speeches and stay all evening."

She understands why the MPs and delegates do not venture further into town. "I came from Birmingham on a day trip once with ten girlfriends. It was so tacky I vowed I would never come here

What will the Tory faithful be doing between speeches next week?  
Alice Thomson joins the pleasure-seekers on the Golden Mile

again. But working here is different. Very few people in this hotel are what we call sandgrows [brought up in Blackpool]."

At the tourist office John Hall, the deputy director of tourism and attraction, is quick to agree that there is a smart side to Blackpool, but feels it is a shame if delegates dismiss the rest. "The smarter side you can do in half an hour, then you can spend the rest of your time enjoying yourself," he says.

The September Brasserie, which opened only last year, has made it into the new edition of the *Good Food Guide*. Such delicacies as halibut fillet on saffron sauce are "the nearest Blackpool comes to nouvelle cuisine", the brasserie's manageress says. The Kinnocks found the brasserie by the end of the Labour party conference last year and, she claims, said they wished they had found it earlier. This year the brasserie is already fully booked.

Three miles from Blackpool is the area's only small country house hotel, the Riverside. This is the established haunt of those brave enough to wander away from the Imperial and the Winter Gardens. "We love the conferences," says Bill Scott, the Riverside's owner. "We are lucky because we get the cream. Cabinet ministers and senior MPs come here for dinner, year after year. We are booked up two years in advance, but I squeezed in Robin Day at short notice once."

where Les Dawson comes from, and where Blackpool's millionaires (more numerous than you might think) live.

Blackpool is Europe's oldest mecca of seaside entertainment. But its selling point is definitely not the sea, which is not fit to wash your socks in, as any Blackpool man will tell you. "Blackpool doesn't pretend to be anything it isn't," Mr Hall says. "We cater for those who have got a few quid in their hands and want instant gratification, and at this we are professionals. If only the MPs could let their hair down a bit they could have a good time."

The first place to go is the Blackpool Tower, Blackpool's equivalent of the Eiffel Tower,

only much better, according to Lorna and Edna, who swept me up with a gaggle of their elderly friends. They had come back for a reunion at the ballroom, a grand Edwardian rococo masterpiece on the third floor of the leisure centre that squats under the legs of the tower. The women got their combs out, hung up their cardigans and backed on their silver dancing shoes. The star of the dance floor was a young larp of 30 in a violet dress who could do the cha-cha like a dream.

At 5pm the dancers begin to disappear, either to their guest houses, where dinner is at 5.30pm prompt, or to the Tower restaurant, where steak and kidney pie with chips, peas and beans costs £2.99 and sherry trifle is £1.49. The tower is not just for the nostalgic. Children thrill to Jungle Jim's adventure playground, the horror dungeons, and a whole seaful of fish downstairs in the aquarium.

As the seafaring darkness, the Blackpool illuminations dazzle and people gather along the front. Battling against the gale from one discount store to another, ferreting their way among the Simpson dolls, the pleasure beach — 40 acres of stomach-churning rides — is their ultimate destination.

Here an Arab family is sampling the delights. The visitors have come for three weeks and seem intent on going on as many rides as possible, including the infamous twin-track roller-coaster, the Revolution.

There is serious public concern about this matter, which will not have been eased by the fact that the authority's code of practice states boldly that single women are "entitled to apply to become mothers through artificial insemination".

Parliament never voted for that. And of course they are similarly "entitled" to apply to have an abortion if they change their minds. What they are "entitled" to do if the baby turns out to be handicapped, or if they find they cannot manage to care for the child alone, or if they cannot afford the cost of bringing it up, is not actually spelt out in the code. But undoubtedly the responsibility will pass to the taxpayer who has no "entitlements" whatever in the matter.

*'We cater for those who want instant gratification. If only the MPs could let their hair down they could have a good time'*

Locals are not surprised to see sheikhs jetting in with their entourages. Last month one family reputedly spent £10,000 in a weekend, and even Saudi Arabia's royal family has paid a visit. Tourist brochures are now being written in Arabic.

Back at the Imperial Hotel Detective Constable Bill Webster is making his last security checks before the conference. "There are all sorts of people here who are doing what they shouldn't be, so they get angry when we start prying," he says. "If you want to see the Blackpool MPs never see, you will have to come for a night out on the town."

There are 45 nightclubs in Blackpool and this, as much as fruit machines (more than Las Vegas), is what the young come for. Blackpool is the only British seaside resort where the tourists are getting younger every year. "There's one problem," says Mr Webster when I meet him downstairs. "We don't wear jeans in Blackpool. The girls here wear white heels, and tiny skirts. We call it the Minkie Mouse look."

The bars are packed with young men and women. They do not look bored, but "boredom" is what the area health authority suggests as the reason for the town's high teenage pregnancy rate. With one in 14 girls under 18 becoming pregnant, it is two times higher than Britain's average.

A girl at a club offers a different reason, as she applies some more fake tan to her legs in the ladies' lavatory. "They start young here, that's why. Here you can do whatever you like without the whole village gossiping, so everyone tends to go a bit wild." She looks me over critically. "You'd have more luck if you wore some make-up."

## Sex and the single writer

Why an American feminist regularly adopts the missionary position in *Playboy*

Cynthia Heimel, an American writer, is where girl talk and feminism meet. Eight years ago she wrote a book titled *Sex Tips for Girls*. It was a cheerful, scurrilous and extremely funny sex and modern etiquette manual, covering such matters as How to Be Blindingly Beautiful and Zen and the Art of Diaphragm Insertion. Young women fell about laughing, wished she could be their best friend and lent each other their copies. Quietly it became a cult; it is still being reprinted.

This month Ms Heimel's third book, *If You Can't Live Without Me Why Aren't You Dead Yet?*, came out. It too is sexy, scurrilous and funny, but not quite so cheerful. Where *Sex Tips* sent up the 1980s, this collection of her columns from *Playboy* and the *Village Voice*, where she writes as Problem Lady, offers a commentary on what actually went on during them. *Sex Tips* comes of age, and you've got to laugh or else you'd cry.

I meet Ms Heimel at the hairdresser. She is feeling run off her feet. Lunches with Ruby Wax and the editor of *Cosmopolitan*; a book launch party.

"Owl," she says to Charlie the hairdresser, as he brushes out her curls. "Be careful! I'm a delicate flower."

"That's your perception of yourself," he says enigmatically.

"No," Ms Heimel says, "it's a joke." Ms Heimel wants nothing so much as for men and women to understand each other. She sees her role at *Playboy* as being "in the missionary position, preaching to the unconverted".

"Can we talk about feminism?" she asks. "It's not dead, right? I hate it when people say it is. That 'I've got mine' attitude, like we don't need feminism any more."

She remembers when "feminism meant that a woman, although she liked and lust after men, wanted to be in charge of her own life and her own job and her own car, and is sad that it has come to mean 'a ballbuster who hates all men and wants to see them dead'".

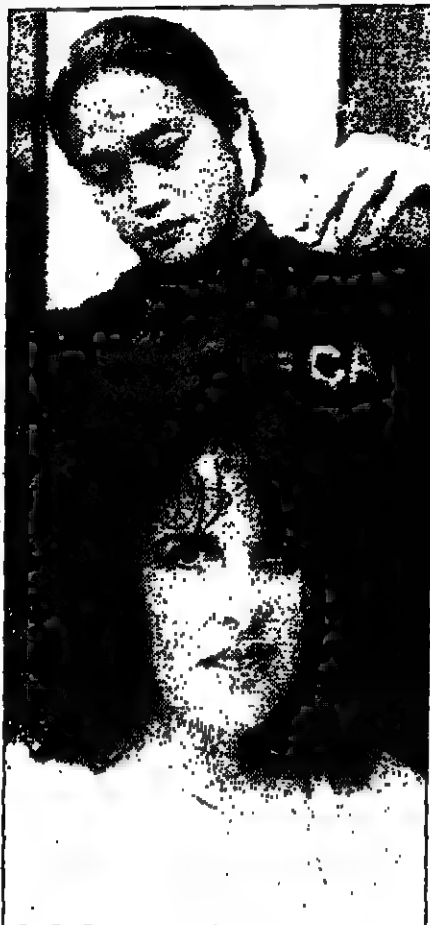
"The media tend to pervert feminism. They get hold of the mad ones and work them up into a lather. My generation made a sacrifice — you see all these 40-year-old women wandering around exhausted. They didn't get to have children — I did, ha ha. So when you see younger women going backwards, being servile or self-satisfied, you get frustrated. Not resentful, no. There's not some group of resentful 40-year-olds. I don't call up Gloria Steinem every night and report. But there's a new wave due in this movement."

The other thing on Ms Heimel's mind today is dates. She'd like to know when a date is not a date and how you can tell. She'd like to know if it's different in London from New York, where she lived for 17 years, and Los Angeles, where she has just moved. Her favourite phrase is "No, tell me, I'm curious." It's probably by a key line in her newest project; she had breakfast with David Putnam and he

wants her to write a film. The hairdresser's assistant is holding bunches of hair out of the way of the scissors, and they hang beside her face like dog ears. "I feel like a spaniel," she says. "Art! People always want to know what I think about sex, never what I think about dogs."

What does she think about dogs? "This anti-dog propaganda is frightening — that dogs are horrible and dirty. It's the same with feminists — people take the mad ones and exaggerate things and apply that to the whole species. And there's no rabies in the US — why couldn't I bring my dog over?"

Ms Heimel is 40 and single. She feels that too many men still treat



Carl talks: Cynthia Heimel and coiffeur

women as prey or invisible and describes herself as being just between the two.

"Put down the dog fanciers' magazine, sit quietly and listen to me very carefully," is her advice, in the guise of Problem Lady, to the woman who feels she's turning into a spinster, with dogs and knitting. "In the past an unmarried woman approaching 40 would have two choices: she would become the fussy old babe you describe or, even worse, she would desperately apply more and more eye shadow, expose more and more cleavage, drink more and more bourbon and laugh louder and louder at cocktail parties. But you're not like that, it's a minefield of stereotypes out there. But you must ahead your way through them... Don't you dare roll over and play dead."

Is that your advice, Problem Lady? "Yeah, just follow your own personal goofy little star." The curls are now rampant and glossy. "How does it look? You like it?" says the ballbuster, looking radiant.

LOUISE YOUNG

© If You Can't Live Without Me Why Aren't You Dead Yet? by Cynthia Heimel is published by Fourth Estate, £6.99  
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Dame Jill Knight asks why, if children's welfare is paramount, 'virgin' births are still allowed

Health ministers appear blissfully unaware of the volume of concern which is mounting over the way in which the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority is setting about its business.

A taste of what is to come emerged in March when it was reported that two women, who may not have been virgins but were certainly single, demanded first to be made pregnant artificially, and then to have abortions. Doctors admitted that ten similar cases had probably occurred this year. None of these happened under the aegis of the new authority, which took over from the Interim Licensing Authority on August 1, but they happened before Parliament realised where the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act could lead us, before the media highlighted the implications of so-called virgin births, and before doctors warned that there were grave misgivings about the way in which the authority (set up to regulate both the treatment and research) was developing.

In these circumstances there should have been another opportunity to debate the matter in the House. None was given. The issues that came up in the debate were surrogacy, embryo experimentation and abortion. No one realised that we were opening the door to the intentional creation of unnatural, single-parent families.

The British Pregnancy Advisory Service did announce, some months ago, that it would not involve itself in "virgin" births. But this is the only organisation in the field (and there are scores and scores of them up and down the country) that has made such a decision. Any single and unsupported woman who desires it can apply for artificial insemination by donor (AID).

There is serious public concern about this matter, which will not have been eased by the fact that the authority's code of practice states boldly that single women are "entitled to apply to become mothers through artificial insemination".

Parliament never voted for that. And of course they are similarly "entitled" to apply to have an abortion if they change their minds. What they are "entitled" to do if the baby turns out to be handicapped, or if they find they cannot manage to care for the child alone, or if they cannot afford the cost of bringing it up, is not actually spelt out in the code. But undoubtedly the responsibility will pass to the taxpayer who has no "entitlements" whatever in the matter.

## When father was only a test tube



*'Parliament could, and should, give greater protection to these children'*  
Dame Jill Knight

However, even that is not the most worrying aspect. I received literally hundreds of letters from people who had read of my involvement in the "virgin" births controversy and were appalled at the prospect of fatherless children being produced quite deliberately.

mother. What came over very strongly was that children need fathers; where those fathers had divorced or left the mother, or died, children still needed to relate to a father who did exist, or had existed. A child will ask about his father. It will be a terrible answer that he never had one — only a test tube.

More recently people have written to express their concern about the "trivialisation" and "belittling" of fatherhood, and have asked whether it is right that donors should be absolved of all responsibility for their children. There is, it is felt, a world of difference between a couple who appear unable to have a child being helped scientifically so to do, and a single woman demanding official, medical and legal insemination.

During the passage of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill in committee I moved an amendment which would have meant that the well-being of any child to be born as a result of this scientific procedure must be considered and must be "paramount". The minister would only accept that "account should be taken of the child". Yet in legislation covering adoption the welfare

of the child is "paramount". Only a few months ago a case was reported of a British couple who wished to adopt a Romanian child. They were turned down because the husband had a heart condition, and the panel decided that there was a chance that he might die before the child grew up. Even the possibility of the child being brought up with no father stopped the adoption.

Why is a child to be adopted of greater importance than a child produced as a result of a scientific procedure? And since the adopted child now has a legal right to locate his parents, why should this right be denied to these children?

When ministers and others have been taxed with questions of this kind, the answer has always been that the mother will receive counselling — a response which signally fails to address the problem. Not a single word has yet been uttered to indicate that the child (who has no voice and no status) should have its "entitlements" too. The only one it has — and it is slim — is that its welfare must be considered, but it is not to be given precedence.

The advancement of science brings countless blessings but there is a dark side, too. Parliament could, and should, give greater protection to children, and may well have to take the blame that it did not.

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## BRIEFING

## British double

FOR the first time the London Film Festival opens and closes with new British films. Mike Newell's *Enchanted April* — a feminist-slanted comedy with a plot sparked by a *Times* personal advertisement — starts the ball rolling on November 6. It stops, about 200 films later, on November 21, with James Fox and Fanny Ardant in *Affair of the Heart*, Mark Peploe's psychological thriller. Postal booking for British Film Institute members opens on October 17; public booking on November 1. Details from the National Film Theatre (071-928 3232).

## Home at last

HAVING played to 16 million people worldwide, the Trevor Nunn/John Caird production of *Les Misérables* finally reaches the city where it all started: Paris. Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg opened their musical in Paris in September 1980. But it was not until Cameron



Les Misérables: Trevor Nunn

Mackintosh and the RSC waved their magic wands over *Les Mis* five years later in London that it became a hit. Their production now opens at the Théâtre Mogador on October 23, but Victor Hugo devotees may experience some queasiness: the cast will sing the English translation *retranslated* back into French.

## Last chance...

THE best-known artistic consequences of Japan's mid-19th century opening up took place at a distance: Whistler and Monet never went to Japan. Some British artists were more enterprising. In "Opening the Window" the Fine Arts Society (071-629 3116) examines the responses to Japan of Mortimer Menpes, the Glasgow Boys Henry and Hornell, and Alfred East. Ends Friday.

ARTS REVIEWS  
Kabuki Theatre at the National, plus concerts  
Page 18

## THEATRE

## The play must go on ... and on

With Alan Ayckbourn's latest dramatic marathon arriving in the West End, Matt Wolf reports on the playwrights who believe in giving the public more



Event theatre at its best: Michael Maloney as Hal and Robert Stephens as Falstaff, in Adrian Noble's *Henry IV* for Stratford

In an age when the very survival of theatre itself can be seen as an event, a genre one might refer to as "event theatre" seems to have taken hold. Mostly, these productions are large-scale and long, and appear in the subsidised sector where freedom from commercial pressure allows risk-taking at best, self-indulgence at worst. Occasionally, as Alan Ayckbourn's *The Revengers' Comedies* is now demonstrating, the genre spills over into the West End in an effort to shake up a form whose ground rules otherwise remain constricting.

Why, after all, should a play conform to conventions of time and space if the dramatist has other ideas? Beckett and Pinter are among those who have written greatly distilled works, sometimes as brief as a minute or two. The converse, then, is certainly permissible if Ayckbourn wants to tell his newest play in five-and-a-half hours over two evenings, or in one-day marathons.

The rewards are great, allowing for a panoramic breadth and scope that few writers attempt. But the risks of "event theatre" are clear. Present something in two or three parts, and face the possibility that your audience may divide away or nod off, as was happening to some *Mahabharata* goers at Peter Brook's Glasgow production. Worse yet, conceive an evening of theatre on a scale people are not primed for, and find yourself playing to a mere handful of devotees. Such was director Mike Alfreds's scenario in 1987, with his five-hour National Theatre staging of *Countryman*, and his equally time-consuming production of *The Wandering Jew*, also at the National.

When they do work, event productions offer the pleasure that comes from an audience communally experiencing a broadened dramatic vision. The gathering together for a special occasion is at the very heart of what theatre is," says Adrian Noble of the Royal Shakespeare Company, whose first season as artistic director has been defined by such events.

He opened the Stratford season this spring with the two parts of Shakespeare's *Henry IV*, a Bardic event familiar to recent RSC theatregoers from Trevor Nunn's Barican inaugural in 1982, or

from Noble's own *Plantagenets* marathon two seasons ago. Next month, Noble's production of *The Taming of the Shrew*, translated from Sophocles by Timberlake Wertenbaker, will immerse audiences in over six hours of Greek tragedy.

Noble explains: "One is appealing to something very central to the audience's appetite for theatre. Originally, the plays I am currently doing would have been put on at the spring festival of Dionysus over two or three days, as perhaps the only performances of the year, so the audience went in a particular

frame of mind; the plays served a function at once political and religious and social."

So, too, does the best of event theatre, as its veterans acknowledge. While commercial theatre may be contracting in every sense — smaller casts, shorter running times — the public appetite for epic theatre increases, provided the material justifies the length. Director David Freeman may have had trouble luring people last year to his two-part *Morte d'Arthur* at the Lyric Hammersmith, but that is only because not every saga exerts

the pull of a *Nicholas Nickleby*. Attending David Edgar's Dickens adaptation, by contrast, one felt the exalted power of a narrative in full flow. Sucked into the drive — and the humanity — of the source material, audiences were reluctant to leave both the theatre and one another. Says Noble: "A bonding takes place in the audience, and you actually start making friends. People feel they have shared some extraordinary journey."

For Alan Ayckbourn, narrative is the key which may be one reason why marathons such as *The Mys-*

teries, directed by Bill Bryden at the National and then on the West End, have proved so compelling. What better story than that of the Creation or, on a less cosmic scale, man's capacity for ruthlessness and evil which provides the sobering subtext of Ayckbourn's blackly comic current play?

His intention, Ayckbourn recalls, was to develop an idea "which could well spread over into something bigger, an event. I don't think I actually started by saying, 'I want to write a five-hour play', but occasionally it does me good to

address myself to something which stretches me." It is the result, then, of his own "bet-you-can't-do-it" dare to himself.

Practical difficulties remain, not least in how you encourage the audience to return for more, especially when a separate evening out is required. This year at Stratford, the *Henrys* have played to capacity on marathon days, dipping to 70 per cent or so when seen over two nights. Noble believes the titles matter hugely, and he insisted the second play in the *Plantagenets* trilogy be called by the invented title *Edward II* rather than anything with the potentially lethal words "Part Two".

"Who wants to see part of anything?" Noble says of his rationale. He admits, though, that this logic has its limitations: "I couldn't do that with *Henry II*, *Part Two* because it is too famous."

Meanwhile, one of the pleasures of being Alan Ayckbourn may be that one has engendered sufficient goodwill over the decades (*Revengers' Comedies*, premiered at his home theatre in Scarborough in 1989, marked his 37th play) to face both the *Part Two* obstacle and the obvious commercial risk of the project.

The author points out that the Scarborough public cautiously booked first for *Part One* before committing themselves to *Part Two*. "On double days, it was like a mini Glyndebourne; people had their picnics and sat outside. But on nights of *Part Two* alone, the actors found themselves warming up an audience who hadn't been in for the first two acts." Accordingly, Ayckbourn prefers during the West End run that *Revengers' Comedies* be seen as "a four-act play with a convenient division" rather than as a two-part ordeal. And as for the public's much claimed inability to focus, Ayckbourn takes an opposing view. "The belief is that we are in a disposable culture where everything has to tie in to that mythical short attention span."

"Audiences respond to what seems special. People do love the new, the exciting, the original; they really do enjoy it."

● The *Revengers' Comedies* is in preview at the Strand Theatre (071-240 0300) and opens on October 16.

## CLASSICAL MUSIC

## Perfect pitch for the ages of man

Stephen Pettitt  
meets the pianist  
Shura Cherkassky,  
as he celebrates his  
80th birthday

FOR about 70 of his 80 years, Shura Cherkassky has been a pianist of wide reputation. Yet he owns practically nothing. He lives, when in London, in a cramped, cluttered room in an otherwise smart hotel off the Marylebone Road. He rents his piano and haphazardly piles his music on top of it. He is plainly ill at ease with the practicalities of life if they

have nothing to do with work, though he takes great care with his appearance on the concert platform. "This is a new afternoon suit and the sleeves weren't the same. Are they the same now? Don't tell me they're not! The new concert suit is fine, but before it kept falling down. I try not to think of it when I play Schumann. Schumann was rather mad, wasn't he?"

The thought briefly crosses one's mind that perhaps Cherkassky, 80 today, is a touch eccentric, too. When he spoke, he was worrying about a piece new to him that he was due to play in a few days' time. "I know it pretty well, but there are six lines I just can't remember. I have to read it at night. I have to take it to bed with me. I just hope nobody comes with the music!"

Those who think of Cherkassky as an incurable romantic might be surprised that the work he was talking about was Charles Ives' "Three-Page Sonata". Not long ago he also tackled Stockhausen's *Klavierstücke IX* at Carnegie Hall. "That was a sensation, because they didn't expect a person of my type to play a piece like that. Why did I do it? Because it was a challenge. I like modern music. If you practice, it doesn't sound strange."

Cherkassky began his life in Odessa. "My mother was a good pianist. She played for Tchaikovsky, his 'F major Variations' in Petersburg. She was really very promising, but she had terrible cramps and couldn't play any more. In those days they didn't know what physiotherapy and massage was. That's why I'm so fanatical about massage and swimming. I never touch alcohol either. My father taught me to read music. He was a dentist who also played the violin. When he taught me I seemed to grasp it immediately. Perhaps I had been a musician in a former life."

Cherkassky's family was forced to flee the Soviet Union in 1922. "For three days we had almost nothing to eat. We had relatives in Baltimore. We took a train to Moscow and

waited for ten days for a train to Riga. Then we took the boat for America. When afterwards I went to Europe with other schoolchildren on a tour I couldn't imagine that Paris was on the same continent as the Soviet Union."

In the United States, he became a well-known child prodigy. "Rachmaninov lived in New York and I went to play to him. He said, 'Yes I'll teach you, but you must not give concerts for two years.' Then Josef Hofmann heard me play, and he said, 'I'll teach you and you must give concerts.' I've never regretted following his advice, even though it was Rachmaninov's I rejected. Hofmann was a child prodigy himself. He said that if you have it in your blood, don't stop."

Cherkassky shows no signs of relaxing into old age. "People ask if I ever get tired. I get tired not with the big things but with the little things. The delay of the plane, that's not the fault of management. That doesn't tire me. We can control pollution in Bangkok but not the weather. But if I arrive and I'm not met, or the room isn't quite ready, things like that, I get very tired."

Does he still practise? "Four hours a day. Hofmann said if you can't do it in four hours you can't do it at all, and he was right. To be a pianist, talent isn't enough. You have to have a strong character. I'm terribly methodical. I have to practise like a clock. If I'm even one minute short I have to make it up. At weekends I do four hours in two days. And I treat the sixth and seventh of every month, and the 18th and 19th, like Saturday and Sunday."

"I'm embarrassed to practise in front of anybody who has never heard me before. They say, 'Is that Cherkassky? But he can't play, it sounds like he's tuning the piano.' That's because I practise in a peculiar way. You know how you can tell that old pianists are getting old? The chords are not clean. I practise in such a way that the fingers are in the middle of the notes, not overlapping other notes."

Cherkassky's performances are renowned, even notorious, for their unpredictability. "Yes, it's true I'm sometimes criticised for playing differently every time. Some conductors, especially, don't like it, and I can't blame them. I don't do it on purpose. I



"I'm sometimes criticised for playing differently every time"

think I have more control now. But to play too strictly is not good. Most young pianists nowadays generally play the same way, and it's just not interesting. You come out of the concert and you forget. I like to remember."

● Shura Cherkassky performs at St John's, Smith Square, London, in a BBC Lunchtime Concert broadcast live on Radio 3 at 1.05pm today; and at the Festival Hall on Sunday at 3.15pm.

## TELEVISION REVIEW

## Credibility shot to hell

THE latest issue of *InterCity*, the British Rail magazine, contains a page of quiz questions on what it calls "modern history". The questions are taken from real life, until you reach number 15: Who shot JR? This refers to an incident in Dallas in 1980, two years after the soap was first launched in Britain.

Those who say that British Rail is never on time had their comeuppance yesterday, when within hours of attempting to answer the question, I watched the very last, absolutely the final episode of the programme. And at the end of it, JR shot JR.

I dare say there is no shortage of people who think that Dallas is a programme and not a city, in the same way that some years ago a group of children in Manchester was asked which region they lived in, and 60 per cent replied "Granada". This is frightening, this is amusing, this is both and neither. Much the same could be said for JR.

Dallas fell from grace with the British audience four years ago, when Bobby Ewing, who was supposed to be dead, stepped out of a shower after 18 months to announce that his demise had been a dream. British plumbing being what it is, we all know you cannot spend 18 seconds in a shower without either freezing or

scalding because somebody has turned on a tap somewhere on the same latitude. Until then, we were prepared to believe that people actually lived like this, and having been in Texas dining rooms full of wealthy men wearing ten-gallon hats, accompanied by Sue Ellen lookalikes, I am more prepared than most to believe it.

The final episode consisted of JR being visited by an agent of the devil dressed in a white tuxedo, who showed our hero-villain what would have happened to the people in his life had JR never been born. On the whole, they were just as miserable, but not nearly so rich. The exception being Cliff Barnes, who became — wait for it — vice-president of the United States, a shock from which JR had barely recovered before the president had a stroke. "I am," Barnes told his wife, "acting president of the United States."

Acting? President? Cliff Barnes? Ronald Reagan? Is this life, or art, or what? No wonder JR put a pistol to his head. What with finding wimps in the White House and himself doing British Gas commercials, Larry Hagman must need time to get his head straight. Eighteen months should do it.

PETER BARNARD

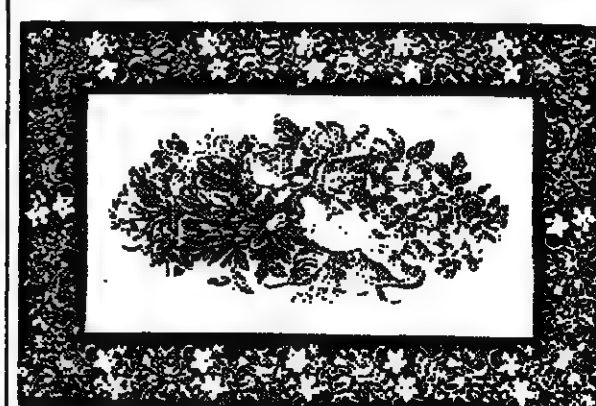
"A physics graduate walked out at 4.30 p.m. on day 1 having, as he laconically put it, 'given it a whirl'."



This Friday The TES finds out who drops out of teacher training and why.

TES

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# All Heath's children

Peter Riddell explains why so few of the ministers at the Tories' Blackpool conference will be Thatcherites

The Conservative party is now run by Heath's children rather than Thatcher's people. Over recent weeks I have often been struck by how limited Margaret Thatcher's legacy has been in Downing Street and the top of her party — far less than the lasting impact of her policies on the country. The handbag has been quickly replaced by the cricket bat. That has created an opportunity for John Major that he has not yet fully seized.

Mrs Thatcher surprisingly failed to remodel the leadership of her party. When she arrives on the platform of the conference on Wednesday to a tumultuous ovation — do I hear eight minutes? — she will find few of her natural allies sitting around her. Four of the cabinet, Douglas Hurd, Kenneth Baker, William Waldegrave and John MacGregor, worked for Edward Heath personally; another half dozen were closely associated with him; John Gummer married Heath's secretary. Unlike their mentor, all have modified their views during the 1980s, embracing many aspects of Thatcherism, in several cases producing a breach with the sage of Salisbury.

But where are the Thatcher people? Gone and heading for the House of Lords in almost every case. Mrs Thatcher not only failed to groom a successor but she also fell out with many of her strongest supporters, several of whom then became fierce critics. The list of the lost is long — Leon Brittan, John Biffen, Geoffrey Howe and Nigel Lawson are only the most prominent. Others departed, such as Norman Tebbit and Cecil Parkinson, and some, such as John Moore, never quite made it.

For all her fierce partisanship, Mrs Thatcher promoted on the basis of ability in office, and she excluded loyal supporters who were not seen as cabinet material. She paid the price last November when few of her cabinet urged her to fight on after the first ballot. In the present cabinet only Peter Lilley, Michael Howard and Norman Lamont can be counted Thatcher's people. There are more among middle-ranking and junior ministers, but many have accommodated quickly to the new regime.

Mrs Thatcher also failed to change the ideological composition of the parliamentary party, mainly because it is not very ideological. There is no evidence that constituency parties select candidates on the basis of specific views. For all the high profile of the No Turning Back group of MPs, most of whom are now ministers, they are a minority within a party dominated by the less-committed. Mrs Thatcher's leadership may have attracted

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

some people who agreed with her to stand as candidates. But any party shift in a Thatcherite direction reflected more the events of the 1980s, a long-term broadening in social background of MPs, and an increase in the number representing southern England rather than the north and Scotland. She also left little mark on the way the government is run. Her authority was exercised in a personal way via close aides such as Sir Charles Powell and Sir Bernard Ingham. Once they had gone, there was a rapid return to a less personal and more collective style of decision making. As one minister told me: "I no longer feel my day is going to be ruined if I get a call from the prime minister's office at breakfast time." You just have to walk into 10 Downing Street to notice the difference. Unlike Mrs Thatcher in 1975, who inherited a shadow cabinet of Mr Heath's allies, Mr Major has had a more sympathetic team from the start. That partly reflects his own ability to link Heath's children and Thatcher's people.

But in what direction does he want to take the party? The change in style is already evident, and there have been some policy changes, notably the demise of the poll tax and the greater emphasis on improving public services rather than cutting tax. Tory strategists say the theme in Blackpool will be competence in government: getting on with the job. Ministers will attempt to shift attention from September's mini-campaign to what they are going to do over the next six months, plus hints of what President Bush likes to call "the vision thing".

I wonder if that is enough. The message of Labour's conference last week was not that Neil Kinnock has suddenly been transformed — his familiar weaknesses remain — but that he is leading a more united and harmonious party than at any time since the early 1980s. It is no longer sufficient to imagine the Kinnock team forming a government. There are certainly many holes and uncoated promises in the Labour programme. But the Tories cannot rely on attacking Labour, offering competence and hoping for the economy to recover by next spring (where they may be too optimistic). Mr Major needs to explain where he is taking the Thatcher legacy; some meat on the bones of the Citizen's Charter would help for a start. He has to show that it is no longer Mrs Thatcher's party.



Heath and Thatcher: whose party now?

America is obsessed by the marriage of Liz Taylor, reports William Cash from Los Angeles

## Hail, great Cleopatra

American fascination with the details of Elizabeth Taylor's wedding (down to the hand-sculpted ice angels on each table) reached the level of obsession over the weekend. All network television stations kept a close watch on the ceremony and reminded viewers that Taylor is the closest the United States has to royalty. *The National Inquirer* billed it "the wedding to end all weddings".

The appeal of Liz Taylor to the US public represents more than a glitzy attempt at Charles and Diana on a honeymoon. Her appetite for grand consumption — men, chocolate, liquor — is matched only by America's own capacity to witness excess. With the country (especially Hollywood) still in the grip of recession, the timing of her estimated \$1.5 million wedding to Larry Fortensky, a 39-year-old construc-

tion worker, is impeccable. Just when studio budgets are being slashed, Taylor flaunts her wealth and dresses up (a £13,000 yellow Valentino number) to star in the role she plays best — herself.

Her devil-may-care attitude, coupled with a love of ostentation and a racy streak of vulgarity, is part of her fascination for the American public. She may have looked starchy-eyed and beguiling in such films as *Suddenly Last Summer* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, but in life she has never been afraid of letting the screen mask slip for unseemly public rows with Richard Burton, or posing for the unflattering "hillobs of fat" photograph. When on the campaign trail with her seventh hus-

band, Senator John Warner, she would change outfits in petrol station lavatories.

In her dedication to charity (she was a founder of the American Foundation for AIDS research) she behaves like royalty. Yet the flip side of this behaviour is her work as a buccaneer saleswoman, touring the country to promote her latest perfume. The exclusive media rights for covering her wedding were sold for millions to the highest bidder, but the money goes not to her bank account but to charity. Such brazen antilogies have always fuelled the American dream.

Taylor, with her treasure chest of jewels, her exhibitionism and her self-indulgence, is more able to

behave like a Cleopatra than real royalty today (in Britain at least) is ever permitted. The queen of Hollywood can also, unlike real royalty, dump her latest husband tomorrow, if she so wishes. Despite her many personal tragedies, she has always been able to pick up the pieces and start again. Her roller-coaster of a life, with all its extremes of passion and pain, embodies the Huck Finn optimism at the heart of the American psyche.

If the British are obsessed about the past, Americans are equally so about the future. And weddings, in Hollywood at least (next at the altar is Steven Spielberg), have the all-important promise of a happy ending. The only line missing

from the script of Taylor's movie yesterday was the vow, "Till death do us part". Taylor, who is nearly 60, asked for the words to be dropped.

Another reason why the wedding is being portrayed as a fairytale Disney production is that her eighth husband is a Mr Nobody with a dubious past. For him it must be a fantasy come true. To be ordered by a court to enrol at the Betty Ford Clinic for alcoholism and drug dependency and end up being proposed to by a co-patient, one of the richest film stars in the world... such things are meant only to happen in movies.

In Hollywood, where the edges between fantasy and reality are often blurred, to produce a film with such a star for \$1.5m is an achievement. These days you would have difficulty shooting a B-movie for that.

## Break, enter and be damned

Imagine a law that let the police kick down your door: it is here, writes Bernard Levin

Here is a party game for a rather gloomy family. Think of a law which is bound to deepen further the growing suspicion and hostility that today face the police (juries, for instance, are increasingly refusing to convict on police evidence alone).

To show just how the game is played, let me give a very fanciful example. Imagine a law which would give the ordinary police of this country powers to enter your home at any time of the day or night, without a warrant or any warning, to break down the door if you refuse entry, to turn you out of your house while they search it, to take away anything they please, to question your wife and arrest her if she fails to answer, to demand an answer to their questions and to be charged with an offence if you remain silent and insist on having your solicitor with you when you are interrogated, and to do any or all of these things to any person in your home, whether relative, friend or secretary, or for that matter any passing door-to-door vacuum-cleaner salesman who has dropped in to demonstrate his wares.

And what do you say when I tell you that exactly such a law, with exactly such provisions, is not part of any game, but is real, and is about to come into force in the law of this country, under the modest name of Statutory Instrument 1991, No 1531? And can you think of anything more likely to ensure that many law-abiding citizens will pass, where the police are concerned, from wariness to hatred? These appalling provisions originated in an attempt to tidy up the laws pertaining to ownership, storage and use of explosives, but "explosives", within the meaning of the law, does not just mean legitimate or the explosives used for quarrying; the most tenuous (or indeed fraudulent) suspicion that there is a firework left over from Guy Fawkes night, or a cartridge left in a pocket after pheasant-shooting, qualifies for such a raid as I have described. Moreover, although the rules for the owner-



ship of shotguns and the like are already rightly very strict, holders of gun certificates will have to have another certificate to keep their ammunition. But because such people are closely restricted, in practice these monstrous invasions will almost exclusively affect the innocent householder, who has never touched any kind of firearm or explosive in his life.

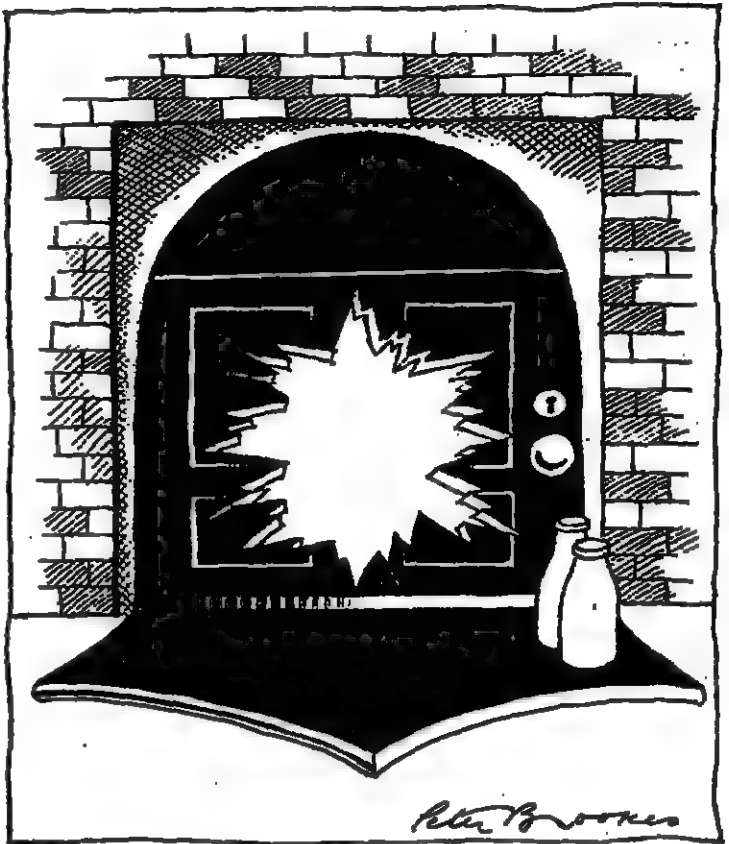
At this point, I may be asked what the police have got to do with it; such matters come under the aegis of the Health and Safety Executive, which, by law, is charged with employing trained inspectors of explosives. The answer is that in an exercise of lunacy extravagant even by the standards of the Home Office, that noisome department has decided to turn policemen into inspectors of explosives; by doing so, the officers will have these outrageous powers over private dwellings as well as, say, mines and factories, and I tell you, in case you hadn't guessed, that they will use them.

Now we shall hear, probably from some dim Tory backbencher seeking preferment and anxiously clutching his brief, that of course the provisions of Statutory Instrument 1531 are not designed to harry honest citizens with a box of party-poppers in their garage, and

no such lurid picture as the new powers paint would ever be seen. Oh, yes? And when did you last hear of a person in authority, however weak the authority, failing to exercise it? And do you know of any official who, given power over a specific area, did not try to push out the borders of his empire? And how long will it be in this case before he succeeds? O, what joy there will be when a bored policeman can kick your doors in at three o'clock in the morning on the chance of finding a can of petrol used for the lawnmower or a cylinder of Calor Gas for the oven!

Will nobody but me say that some of the provisions of Statutory Instrument 1531, whether widely used in practice or not, would today be recognised in Moscow as an outrage? No right to silence? No right to a professional adviser? No warrant to enter? No right for spouse, friend, relative, or visitor to decline interrogation? If we are not in Moscow, where are we — Zaire? Haiti? Iraq?

There is, and has been for some time, a policy on the part of the present government of reducing our rights and increasing our restrictions. Mostly, these come



under the heading of Nanny Knows Best. But if Nanny is bad enough, jailers are much worse. A kind of madness has seized our rulers — an obsession which demands that we must be cabin'd, cribb'd, confin'd, bound in, to saucy doubts and fears. The mark of this frenzy is the government's evasion, wherever possible, of debate; whence the use of the Statutory Instrument. The device is used when it is felt necessary to prevent discussion, and it enables the government to slip sledgehammer into law (trailing punishments for defiance), anything so scandalous that it would probably be rejected or at least modified.

Only the use of the clumsy parliamentary blunt instrument called a "Prayer" can lead to discussion on it; the government can stifle such a discussion, and in any case can and would ignore it. Which is exactly what the government has done with this truly fearsome extension of police powers, while claiming that it is a matter of improving the care with which explosives are guarded.

Of course such substances must be properly kept and watched, and there must be powers to enforce care on those who hold them. But the powers which this outrageous and surreptitiously inserted leg-

islation would give any policeman who could claim to be an inspector of explosives (even if he thinks that an inspector is a ghost and an explosive a swearword) are, or surely should be, intolerable in a free society; and when I say intolerable I do not mean annoying or unpleasant, but that which cannot and must not be tolerated.

There is no well known phrase more frequently misquoted than Acton's famous dictum about power: well, I would rather submit to having all my teeth pulled out without anaesthetic than misquote, so here it is correctly stated: "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." But I quote it (correctly) not to demonstrate my cleverness, but to add to the familiar statement another passage of the letter in which it occurs, but which is rarely cited even by those who get the original bit right, and which indeed is largely unknown. Acton added something as true, as powerful and as necessary as his warning about corruption: it goes, "There is no worse heresy than that the office sanctifies the holder of it." If any inspector of explosives today who was a policeman yesterday is reading these words, I beg him to hand his certificate back.



...and moreover  
**MATTHEW PARRIS**

Have you always wanted a Yomiko baby seal? This eight-inch cuddly toy in synthetic, flame-resistant white fur ("How," asked my Barclaycard Profiles 1991 catalogue, "could you resist those appealing eyes?") peeps out from a cornucopia of goodies. Why hadn't I studied this brochure before?

Excitement about the seal is soon forgotten as, pausing to study the collapsible wheelbarrow, and passing over the pet carrier ("non-toxic, plastic, with shoulder strap") we race on... what's this? Hot air ballooning! "Fulfill your wildest dreams..." Or you can ride in a Formula One powerboat, join the AA, subscribe to *House Beautiful*, then relax with a full-body massage and a hydro in Leicestershire.

I went first to the pictures. Only after marking what I wanted ("tune-up time, with Rosemary Conley at Henley Grange") did I move to the one page with no pictures: Conditions.

Ah. Conditions. To encourage us to use our cards, we "earn" one "point" for each £10 spent. "You don't have to spend more. Just switch your spending to your Barclaycard." Good. I shall amass quite a total, as the years pass...

Ah. Duration. Points can be collected only between August 1991 and July 1992. Bother. I've lost a couple of months already. Never mind, I'll start tomorrow. How many points will get me the Yomiko baby seal? I turned to

the photograph of the seal: an unfortunate pose, straddling the front cover of a gossip magazine so that Jason Donovan appears to have his face buried in the seal's fluffy hindquarters. 190 points says the inset. For the seal, that is, not Jason Donovan. Do you, like me, calculate that we shall have to spend £1,900 to get this seal?

Mentally, I take a rain-cheque on the seal. How about the collapsible wheelbarrow ("strong, rust-resistant, made of polypropylene"). 390 points + £12.50. Hold on! Plus £12.50? That's after spending £3,900? Surely I have made some mistake? Trying the sums again, I paged forward.

For the "three blank videotapes" only £1,900 need be spent. Forgoing (shall we?) the £12,500 you would have to spend to get an "octagonal music box" (though "the perfect place to keep those special possessions", you would by then have had to pawn the special possessions to meet your Barclaycard repayments), we could instead start with a more modest challenge: the £1,900 we must spend before our "attractive terracotta clay wall pot" arrived, with a warning to "shelter against extreme weather conditions"... or extreme impact conditions, as the miserable little unglazed flowerpot is hurtled against the wall.

A modest shortlist, then, from Profiles, of things to see and buy and do, such as an ordinary and unambitious Barclaycard holder might plan...

Rising from his polypropylene garden furniture with integral parasol (100% acrylic), he gathers his Antler "Freestyle" garment carrier, and, packing his Vivitar binoculars and bidding farewell to his cuddly teddybear with leather-look flying jacket, he remembers to switch on his Duracell security light system, cassette/radio/CD portable music player. For, after a quick Triton electronic shower, he's off to Luton airport to "feel every bump and shake" in a Boeing 757 flight simulator.

This proves unwise, spoiling the machine performance of *Starlight Express*, but at the Langham that night, he soon recovers. On Saturday, the zoo, the Planetarium and Madame Tussauds form the perfect prelude to an enchanting evening cruise on the Silver Barmuda. Tomorrow's return trip from Ramsgate to Dunkirk, with car, beckons ("good job he joined the AA!"), then home.

In the Telecorder 300R Answer Machine no messages await, so, taking biscuits and tea from his Storage Tins and Biscuits Barrels (and removing his Binatone Explorer cordless telephone from the book) he slips his Gourmet microwave set into the Quickchef, and, pouring a glass of wine (marvellous how that Silver Drop Collar on the bottleneck does its job) checks the brass carriage clock.

It is only 11pm on Monday. And already he has spent a quarter of a million pounds.

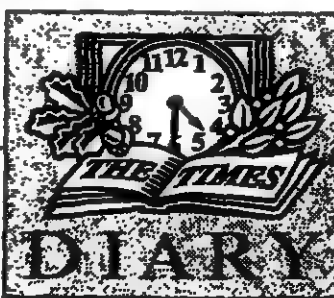
## Major looks both ways

AS IF the opinion polls did not give John Major enough to worry about this week as he prepares for his first conference speech as party leader, he also faces the delicate question of how to keep the peace within his own party.

The difficulty is more usually associated with Labour leaders. But with Edward Heath on the platform when Major delivers his speech on Friday, the party leader's staff have accepted the prime minister must pay a fulsome tribute to the man who led the party to ten years before Mrs Thatcher. Heath has waited 16 years to perform the role of elder statesman, which he feels he was never properly able to fulfil while Mrs Thatcher was leader. He is determined to enjoy the opportunity to the full in Blackpool, and Major is prepared to go along with that. Yet at the same time the prime minister must be careful not to offend the unreconstructed Thatcherites watching everything he does and says for signs of backsliding. He will therefore also pay a strong personal tribute to Mrs Thatcher, creating the delicious spectacle of the two arch-enemies taking adjacent places in the modern Tory pantheon.

A party source says: "It has caused enormous debate among the speechwriters but, as the saying goes, there is no alternative. The only other way would be to ignore both of them. But at the first conference since she stood down as leader that would hurt Mrs Thatcher and her followers even more."

The one wrestling most closely with the difficulty is Nicholas True, who has emerged as the prime minister's favourite speechwriter since joining the



Downing Street policy unit under Sarah Hogg. "Unlike Mrs Thatcher, who employed an army of speechwriters from both within and outside the party, John Major is keeping it very much within the policy unit and Nick has been given the chief responsibility," says a party source.

After Pavarotti's rendering of Nessim dornas in last year's *World Cup*, are football and opera moving still closer? For the first time the Royal Opera House is seeking sponsorship of individual costumes for its production next year of Don Giovanni. Gary Linaker and Paul Gascoigne eat your hearts out; can we now look forward to Leporello in a "McEwan's Lager" vest or the Don in a doublet promoting Richard Branson's Mates?

## Red leather

WHILE Labour may be committed to abolishing the House of Lords in its present form, party leaders are nevertheless devoting considerable time to discussing who might be the leader of the upper house under a Labour government. The name on most lips is Baroness Blackstone, who once worked in the Downing Street policy unit under James Callaghan. Some Labour figures are said to be concerned at the prospect of the Lords being led by someone with

no experience of the Commons, arguing that Labour needs a figure in the tradition of Lords Whitelaw and Waddington — Denis Healey being an obvious choice.

Neil Kinnock, however, while keen to draw on Healey's experience, is said to be unenthusiastic about having a political heavyweight of the past in a position to dominate a largely young and inexperienced cabinet. Blackstone's presence would also help with the sensitive issue of swelling the numbers of women in cabinet. Blackstone's supporters say there is a precedent for her appointment, pointing to Baroness Young, who led the Lords in the early 1980s without any Commons experience. Indeed, but hardly an argument of which Keir Hardie would have approved.

## McCarthy and friend

WHATEVER their wedding plans may be, John McCarthy and Jill Morrell will spend much of the next year together jointly penning a book on their experiences while McCarthy was a hostage. Mark Lucas, their agent at Peters Fraser and Dunlop, refuses to say whether they are writing the book, but the Diary has confirmed that bidding for the rights started last

week. The book is being sold as an account both of the pair's relationship during McCarthy's first months of freedom and their contrasting stories while he was in Lebanon.

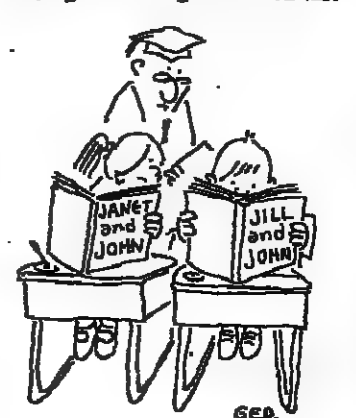
The operation has been a slick one: McCarthy's father Pat approached an agent even before his son was released. An advance of "several hundred thousand" is being confidently talked about, and "at least half a dozen publishers" are expected to bid in the first round before a shortlist is drawn up.

## A-Z of verse

AFTER the reporting of a 72-line palindromic poem here last month, a reader recalls — at least partly — a piece of poetic pyrotechnics of parallel perfection. Michael Harner remembers about 50 years ago learning a 26-line verse, every line of which was completely alliterative. The first four lines ran:

An Austrian army awfully arranged  
Boldly by battery besieged  
Cossack commanders cannonading came  
Dealing destruction devastating doom  
He forgets most of the rest, except, given current events in Yugoslavia, the sadly appropriate "K" line: "Kinsmen kills kinsman, kinsmen kinsmen kill!" Can anyone help to complete?

The new edition of *The Good Curry Guide*, published next week, claims Britain now has more curry restaurants than the Indian subcontinent. It also reveals that the vast majority of Indian restaurants in Britain are not Indian at all: of more than 7,000 restaurants, fewer than 800 are Indian-owned. About 85 per cent of all Indian restaurants are run by Bangladeshis.







## PEACE HATH HER VICTORIES

The proper dismantling of the Soviet military machine has begun. A week after President Bush's unilateral offer to make deep cuts in American tactical and strategic nuclear forces, Moscow reciprocated at the weekend with similar pledges, and a commitment to reduce troop levels apparently thrown in for good measure. In the six weeks since the failure of the Moscow coup, President Yeltsin has assured the West that the new Russia would no longer support a military-industrial complex of the scale that had endured since Stalin. But until President Gorbachev's recent announcement, no specific plan had emerged.

There is a huge difference between the latest American initiative and previous, more cautious arms control agreements, a difference that must have been instantly apparent to Moscow. This time, Mr Bush proposes to reduce not merely the size but the nature of his nuclear arsenal. He promised to halt plans to mount MX long-range missiles on mobile launchers and to stand down strategic bombers from alert. Mr Gorbachev has undertaken to match this promise. The removal of some categories of nuclear weapons from warships will also reduce the mobility which, as Iraq has shown, makes modern missiles almost invulnerable to conventional attack.

Earlier moves towards disarmament had been little more than housekeeping. Both superpowers were continuing to develop the quality of their weapons systems. During the 1980s arms control was used by Moscow to mask the replacement of obsolete weapons with fewer but "smarter" ones. Even the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty, which became a fact of life for the Soviet Union after the revolutions of 1989, was circumvented. The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (Start), which requires 30 per cent cuts in warheads but would not have prevented more mobile delivery systems, was signed only in July — later than hoped — because until then the Americans did not believe in Soviet good faith. It has yet to be ratified by Congress.

## TAKING OVER AEROSPACE

Whitehall has nothing to say officially about the fate of British Aerospace, whose shareholders meet today to approve the company's urgent £432 million rights issue. The company is privately owned, no different in the eyes of government than a corner grocer. Acquisitions are monitored by the Takeover Panel. Big mergers are increasingly policed from Brussels, by the European Commission. Under Margaret Thatcher a habit of silence towards industry descended on Whitehall. That habit remains in Peter Lilley's industry department.

At least in public. Privately, ministers and officials are worried sick that if the rights issue fails, Lord Young's frantic stitching together of BAE of two years ago will unravel, destabilising industry and embarrassing ministers. While the hands-off policy could just hold in the case of the Hanson/ICI saga earlier this summer, it can scarcely be sustained if the rights issue were to fail and Lord Weinstock of GEC seizes blood. These are not corner shops. Between them they beset Britain's engineering, transport, electronics and defence supply. A break-up would affect all British industry.

Defence ministers, natural autarkists, would like to preserve BAE as a single British defence supplier. Hands off also seems unattractive when a company employs 148,000 and an election is imminent. If BAE gets its rights issue, it will doubtless slim its workforce. Sir Graham Day is no pushover. But the process would be less painful than in the context of a close relationship with GEC.

Least attractive of all to the government would be a foreign invasion, with Thompson CSF of France or perhaps an American firm moving in, breaking up and closing down. Rover, BAE's car subsidiary, may be protected from any disposal by the five-year safeguard insisted on by the government at the time of its sale in 1988. Of greater practical value would be the reluctance of

The August coup was in part an attempt by the Communist party's most powerful ally, the military-industrial elite, to preserve its access to as much as one third of Soviet domestic output. In the aftermath of the collapse, not merely of the coup, but of the Soviet system, Mr Bush found himself dealing with a plurality of authorities. Mr Gorbachev was still the man at the end of the hotline, but he was no longer the man with whom the political buck stopped. A new consensus on policies such as defence and foreign affairs is emerging, articulated and influenced by the Soviet president, but no longer subordinate to him.

For the Americans, the priority now is to reach an understanding — in advance of formal treaties — with the political and operational controllers of the Soviet nuclear forces. Washington and Moscow agree on the need to eliminate as many as possible lest they fall into the wrong hands. Russia thus needs thorough and impartial verification to prevent arsenals from being dispersed to the Middle East or elsewhere. Co-operation from republican and central authorities alike will be required to prevent such proliferation. A world market in surplus East European conventional weapons already exists; how much larger might be a Soviet military auction?

For all that, the Gorbachev proposals are the best news on arms control for many years. They confirm that the triumph of Russian nationalism over Soviet communism means more security for the rest of the world, not less, provided the West shows confidence in the new regime, as Mr Bush has done. By offering the post-communist Russian leaders an arms deal, the American president appears to be retracting his earlier doubts about republican nationalism. He is right to do so. Whether Mr Gorbachev survives another year or two as Soviet leader should no longer matter much to westerners. What should matter is that the new Russia should be encouraged to continue on its chosen path of peace and disarmament.

anyone to tackle Honda, the Japanese company which now holds 20 per cent of Rover and which exerts a far more than 20 per cent influence over its activities.

Crises like this exert a devastating magnetism over politicians. Last week, BAE was reported to be whipping up support at the Labour party conference. If Labour is no longer a trade union party, obsessed with job protection, it should resist such pressure.

Ministers too must struggle to remain silent. In such matters, the slope is slippery. Today a minister gives an off-the-record hint. Tomorrow the pressure to repeat it publicly is irresistible. And if the rights issue goes badly, surely the national interest requires that the Treasury step in?

In the particular case of BAE, powerful arguments should tell against intervention. Here is a company that has got into trouble. Though partly the fault of the recession and the waning Soviet threat, it is also the fault of part-time leadership for which former chairman Roland Smith has now paid the price. Moreover the company is heavily involved in the defence field. The prospect of contraction that faced steel in the 1980s faces defence supply in the 1990s. Government can, if it wishes, slow down contraction by generous handouts, of the sort the Tories excoriated under Labour governments. But contraction cannot be stopped.

Investors have a stake in BAE. They are being asked to take a bigger one. They will only do so if they are convinced that profit lies therein. Since an unprofitable BAE is of little use to anybody, this is the least worst basis on which the company's future should be settled. There is a case for greater government involvement in industry: in sponsoring efforts to win international orders in markets that are far from free, notably those across the English Channel. But such intervention ought to follow reorganisation; it should not precede it.

## RECYCLING THE BRITISH

It is hard to be a good green in Britain. In Germany, the weekly trip to the bottle bank is a Lord's Day observance for most families. In America people bundle up newspapers, often as fat as books, for the Scouts to take away for recycling. Good Japanese housewives sort their rubbish into two piles, burnable and unburnable.

In Britain, glass, paper, old clothes and aluminium cans are all thrown into the same dustbin, thence to be tipped on a smelly dump. Recycling just does not pay. The British produce the wrong sort of rubbish: too many coloured bottles, and not enough paper to compete with the cheaper virgin paper from Scandinavia. According to a German survey published today, Britain dumps or burns 95 per cent of its rubbish: the highest in Europe except for Greece.

All this is dispiriting. Nothing so soothes the morning-after guilt at past consumption of alcohol as smashing the empty Chablis bottles in vast, green echoing containers. Each bottle deposited, the conscience argues, saves the nation energy and resources. The more drunk, the more saved. Likewise with newspapers: the more sent to recycling plants, the fewer trees felled to feed our appetite for bingo and gossip. There is a whiff of wartime austerity about the process.

Noble intentions are undermined by hard economics. Britain drinks mainly from imported brown and green bottles, but exports its own nectar in colourless clear glass. The amber tipple would lose its glow if whisky bottles were a mud-green. Gin from

brown bottles lacks the sophistication of its cool transparency. Not enough people think it worth taking jam jars to the bottle banks and technology has still not perfected a way of clarifying coloured glass. As for paper, most of the efforts of the environmentally-motivated go up in smoke.

The European Commission, that great initiator of new customs, is about to change our ways. Next month a directive will instruct each country to recycle 60 per cent of its packaging, rising to 90 per cent by the year 2000. This particular idea is unlikely to catch on immediately, judging from the experience of Japan. There gift wrapping so swaddles everything from miniature head-phones to prime cuts of steak in paper, card, frills and ribbons that opening every item is like playing pass the parcel. Japanese environmentalists have begun with anti-wrapping campaigns; it will be years before they can curb the annual discarding of televisions, furniture, clothes and gadgets.

The domestic government has so far kept out of the British dustbin. There are no inspectors to police the sorting of rubbish. But nor are there incentives to encourage entrepreneurs to turn newspapers into peat, manure into fuel and old bedsteads into railway lines. Indeed there are few British garbologists, as American waste specialists term themselves. Foreign experience shows that the government's recent "green" white paper is tame stuff. But what greater humiliation than to leave it to Brussels to teach us to be better householders?

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Thatcher peerage and need to alter political culture

From Professor Stephen Haseler

Sir, You report (October 3) that "the way has been cleared for Mrs Thatcher to become Countess of Finchley". What a sad ending to a remarkable political career.

The fact is that Mrs Thatcher, no matter the controversy she stirred in Britain during her premiership, is recognised around the globe for her attempt to modernise this old country in order to make it fit to compete in the world. Thus, it is all the more bewildering that such a meritocrat — and such an advocate of enterprise — should seek to join, and thus to dignify, the House of Lords, an embarrassingly anachronistic institution which stands for all the opposite values.

In a sense, her decision to go to the Lords represents a wider social problem in Britain. Evidently, there remains a need — even amongst the most independent and self-confident people in our society — to drape themselves in emine and to see acceptance at a medieval court as some kind of self-validating act.

### Principles of freedom

From Professor Milton Friedman

Sir, I do not wish, nor am I closely enough informed of the details, to become involved in the dispute that has arisen about the Institute of Economic Affairs (reports August 27, 28; leading article, September 12). I can, however, comment on the philosophy and performance of the institute itself.

The vision and public spirit of the late Antony Fisher led him to found the IEA in 1957. He, together with Ralph Harris and Arthur Seldon, who ran it for the next three decades, deserve major credit for transforming the intellectual climate of opinion in Britain.

Had the IEA never existed, Margaret Thatcher might still have become prime minister, but the reforms she presided over would not have been politically feasible, and most likely not even part of her platform. Seldon does a country, to plagiarise Winston Churchill, one so much to so few — and it is not irrelevant that Antony Fisher was also one of the Churchill "few".

The IEA was successful because it

did not seek short-term influence. It maintained a firm policy of sticking to well defined principles, presenting ideas conforming to those principles regardless of their apparent political feasibility or their acceptability to current vested interests. High intellectual quality, firm and clearly stated principles, absence of narrow political partisanship, stress on the long run, and vigorous but fair exposition — these were the hallmarks of Harris and Seldon. And these are the qualities that enabled it to play such a vital role in the intellectual life of Britain.

The IEA's influence has not been confined to the United Kingdom. Its publications and the able group of scholars who became associated with it contributed greatly to the change in the intellectual climate of opinion around the world.

More concretely, a large number of similar institutes have been established in many countries, under the stimulus of their example and Fisher's direct assistance and encouragement. These institutes have disseminated publications and ideas developed at the IEA. They

have been highly successful in producing a receptive climate of opinion for the principles of human and economic freedom that the IEA championed.

I have never had the pleasure of meeting or talking with Graham Mather, but I simply want to add my voice to others in urging him to address the IEA's long-standing avoidance of even the suspicion of party political deference.

More important, the current dispute offers me an occasion to pay tribute to the intellectual and moral leadership displayed by Fisher, Harris and Seldon, along with the late John Wood, for these many years. They have been pillars of strength, a nearly invincible legion, in the battle that so many of us have fought to limit the depredations of bureaucratic control and extend the area of human and economic freedom.

Sincerely yours,

MILTON FRIEDMAN  
(Senior Research Fellow,  
Hoover Institution,  
Stanford,  
California 94305-6010, USA.  
October 3.

From Mr Peter Sieber

Sir, It is very sad to watch Mrs Thatcher snatch ridicule from the grasp of greatness.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER SIEBER,  
2 North Grove, N6,  
October 3.

There is a mystery about prayer that we cannot completely understand but this should not deter anyone from offering prayer of entreaty for those who are in need. The strong tradition of such prayer in the Jewish and Christian communities is based on scripture and personal experience.

Yours faithfully,  
ALLEN WILLETT,  
4 Abbotts Grove, Werrington,  
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire,  
September 30.

From the Reverend Canon H. C. F. Cope

Sir, Dr Cohn-Sherbok writes that man is predestined to act always as God has ordained.

How different is the God revealed by Christ. We are to call Him "Father"; we see the best human parent as a pointer to the character of God. Both human and divine may know the capabilities of their children, but not how those capabilities will be used. "Thy will be done" may well be the ideal prayer for both Jew and Christian, yet for us a wide field of choice remains.

Yours faithfully,  
H. C. F. COPE,  
Town House, South Pallant,  
Chichester, West Sussex,  
October 1.

From Mr Robert W. Turnbull

Sir, The late Archbishop William Temple, I recall, made two points which would seem to be relevant to the rabbi's article. One was to the effect that prayer is not an attempt to use God for our purposes, but a request that He will use us for His; the second that it is legitimate to pray for whatever it is legitimate to desire.

Yours etc.,  
ROBERT W. TURNBULL,  
As from: 4 Higher Mill Lane,  
Buckfast, South Devon.

From the Reverend E. Philip Schofield

Sir, The rabbi's plea that we should pray, "Thy will be done", is timely and challenging. I recall as a student praying this prayer during world war two and being severely reprimanded by several in my congregation because I had not prayed for victory!

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP SCHOFIELD,  
8 Priory Close,  
Penyfford, Chester,  
September 30.

From the Reverend Canon M. Vonberg

Sir, Enjoying the love-filled experience of requests and responses is enhanced by parental ignorance. Cannot God, then, deliberately limit his own knowledge so as to share in similar enjoyment?

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL VONBERG,  
Parish of All Saints,  
3 Valley Road, Kenley, Surrey,  
October 2.

From Mr Donald Christie

Sir, Another rabbi, some may think a wiser one, told his followers: "Ask and it will be given".

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DONALD CHRISTIE,  
18 St John's Road,  
Poole, Dorset,  
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Yours faithfully,  
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Parish of All Saints,  
3 Valley Road, Kenley, Surrey,  
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### Banks and inflation

From Professor S. F. Bush

Sir, It is a pity that Sir Peter Hordern (October 1) should subscribe to the view that central banks control inflation through their supply of the currency.

The massive inflation which we are only just recovering from was not due to the Bank of England's printing a large over-supply of bank notes, but to the vast expansion of credit by the commercial banks. This expansion of credit in 1974-9, expressed as a proportion of GDP, more or less accounts for the inflation rates of 8 to 11 per cent during those years.

A central bank *per se*, whether independent or not, is almost

### Role of advice services

From the Director of the Legal Action Group

Sir, Your leader (October 1) correctly encourages the credit industry to take responsibility for the advice so often required by its debtors. However, your more general argument that advice services should seek greater sponsorship from business requires more examination.

Advice services provide a vital role in educating citizens in their rights and obligations. For example, the largest category of advice given by almost all generalist advice agencies relates to social security and the community charge.

It is, however, difficult to see precisely why business should fund advice on a pensioner's claim for attendance allowance, an unemployed person's replacement of a

lost job or a student's liability for poll tax. This is a responsibility which can be properly placed on the community at large.

The reluctance of central and local government in relation to resources should be countered by the imposition of the appropriate statutory duties, not by suggesting that advice agencies follow the chimera of alternative funding.

Advice should be seen as the first step of an integrated network of publicly-funded legal services that begins with a volunteer worker in an advice agency or bureau and ends with Queen's Counsel in the House of Lords.

Yours faithfully,  
ROGER SMITH, Director,  
The Legal Action Group,  
242-244 Pentonville Road, N1,  
October 3.

rather than subsidise all students regardless of means? Should not some consideration be given to those who are forced to pay this subsidy as well as those who receive it?

Yours faithfully,  
IRIS HARDY,  
Widnush, South Huish,  
Nr Kingsbridge, Devon.

From Mr R. M. H. Barnes

Sir, It is good news that the millions of part-time adult students have managed to persuade the government to continue funding their classes. It is not reassuring to learn from Kenneth Clarke that the disbursement of this extra cash will remain in the hands of local councillors and town hall bureaucrats (report, September 25); an almost certain guarantee that very little, if any, will be used to support adult classes.

To Sir Rhodes Boyson's admirable proposal for a charter legally guaranteeing a citizen's rights

disappointed by the shortcomings of modern medical science.

Whatever the royal blandishments, it seems inconsistent that the BMA should be so liberal in its approval of its members involvement in obscure and dubious practices, and at the same time adopt such a resolute stand against quite sensible attempts to improve the National Health Service.

Yours faithfully,  
D. L. CROSBY  
(Consultant surgeon),  
South Glamorgan Health Authority,  
University Hospital of Wales,  
Heath Park, Cardiff,  
South Glamorgan,  
October 2.

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certainly conflict with current medical teaching which pays high regard to objectivity and the truthfulness of therapeutic claims as judged by audit and peer review.

Medical students are now quite properly taught to be holistic in their assessment of patients' needs, and to recognise that alternative treatments may be complementary. Unfortunately, these terms have not been hijacked by self-styled practitioners to obtain credibility in attracting the attention of those

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### Value of prayer for those in need

From the Reverend Canon Allen Willett

Sir, One of the main points of Dr Cohn-Sherbok's article ("Hostages and the rewards of prayer", September 30) is that, since God is omniscient and aware of future events, no amount of prayer could alter what he knows will happen, including the capture and release of hostages.

Dr Cohn-Sherbok has omitted to take into account the fact that God also knows beforehand that prayer will be offered and in his mind will have responded and planned accordingly.

There are many instances in the Hebrew Scriptures where God encourages the prayer of entreaty, for example, in Genesis 20:7 God said to Abimelech in a dream...

... return the man's (Abraham's) wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live...

In Jeremiah 29:12 God, through Jeremiah, says to the people of Judah exiled in Babylon

Then you will call upon me and come to pray to me, and I will listen to you.

There is a mystery about prayer that we cannot completely understand but this should not deter anyone from offering prayer of entreaty for those who are in need. The strong tradition of such prayer in the Jewish and Christian communities is based on scripture and personal experience.

Yours faithfully,  
ALLEN WILLETT,  
4 Abbotts Grove, Werrington,  
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire,  
September 30.

From the Reverend Canon H. C. F. Cope

Sir, Dr Cohn-Sherbok writes that man is predestined to act always as God has ordained.

How different is the God revealed by Christ. We are to call Him "Father"; we see the best human parent as a pointer to the character of God. Both human and divine may know the capabilities of their children, but not how those capabilities will be used. "Thy will be done" may well be the ideal prayer for both Jew and Christian, yet for us a wide field of choice remains.

Yours faithfully,  
H. C. F. COPE,  
Town House, South Pallant,  
Chichester, West Sussex,  
October 1.

From Mr Robert W. Turnbull

Sir, The late Archbishop William Temple, I recall, made two points which would seem to be relevant to the rabbi's article. One was to the effect that prayer is not an attempt to use God for our purposes, but a request that He will use us for His; the second that it is legitimate to pray for whatever it is legitimate to desire.

Yours etc.,  
ROBERT W. TURNBULL,  
As from: 4 Higher Mill Lane,  
Buckfast, South Devon.

From the Reverend E. Philip Schofield

Sir, The rabbi's plea that we should pray, "Thy will be done", is timely and challenging. I recall as a student praying this prayer during world war two and being severely reprimanded by several in my congregation because I had not prayed for victory!

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP SCHOFIELD,  
8 Priory Close,  
Penyfford, Chester,  
September 30.

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## NEW RELEASES

**THE COMMITMENTS** (15): Hard-bitten Duke 'n' Duchess from a soul band. Fresh, funny, and buoyantly played by a mostly stellar cast. Director, Alan Parker. (Cinema) (R) (45 min).

**DEKALOG PARTS 3 AND 4** (19): Two, each taking a human dimension and looking for love from the Commandments. (Cinema) (R) (45 min).

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## CINEMA GUIDE

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## Eroticism for the masses

THEATRE  
Grand Kabuki  
Lyttelton

**REDGRAVE Jemma III** is, as it happens, currently to be seen in *Our Town* at the Shaftesbury, and Olivier Richard II is about to stage a revival of *Graham Greene's Compton* at Watford. But no British performer can trace his or her theatrical ancestry back as far as the great Kabuki actors, here represented by Nakamura Kankuro V and Bando Tamashiro V, the adopted son of the late Morita Kanya XIV. Such dynastic links, combined with the conscientious conservatism of the Sochiku Company, mean that much of the long evening on offer at the National is not so different from those enjoyed by Japanese shopkeepers or samurai in the 17th century.

Of course, this brings with it a pretty obvious danger. In the age of Madonna and Michael Jackson it is hard to see Kabuki as what it seems often to have been, an erotic entertainment for those not posh enough to patronise Noh plays. Perhaps the art we are being asked to admire is that of mummification or taxidermy, not living theatre. Yet when Nakamura is transformed by sexual betrayal into a raging thunderbolt in a flame-erupted gown, or when he becomes a ferocious, clattering jungle animal, trailing white whiskers that stretch to his hips and a mane that flaps against his heels - well, we most emphatically do not feel we are visiting a museum.

Of the three exemplary pieces staged here, the most substantial is the first, a tale of a courtesan dispatched to seduce the doctor-priest who has seen fit to impose a rain god. She achieves this to some amusingly plinking comments from the simulating translator. "She asks him why he has stopped massaging her, and he



History man: Bando Tamashiro V, one of the stars of Grand Kabuki, is from an ancestral line of Kabuki actors

recurring song that bears a fleeting resemblance to *Auld Lang Syne* who travelled through the country like strolling players in organised troupes with a rigid discipline entailing exclusion for misbehaviour. Orin is one such outcast. Seduced when pined with sake, she wanders through misadventures that the programme notes recount as *The Perils of Pauline* crossed with the elliptical inconsequentiality of an opera synopsis. The mysterious stranger who protects her from unwanted sexual attentions tells her he is a clog maker; at which, the programme cryptically informs us, her heart warms to him.

Far from inviting a deconstructivist analysis of footwork fetishism, the play quickly grabs attention and suspends disbelief. The author, Tsutomu Mizukami, is one of Japan's most distinguished novelists and playwrights. The experience of director Koichi Kimura ranges from Shakespeare and the Jacobean via Edward Albee and Tennessee Williams to Arnold Wesker. His production of *The Great Doctor Yabuhara* - touching, incidentally, on some of the themes found in *Orin* - was an award-winning success in Edinburgh in 1990. *Orin* is a more intriguing production than *Yabuhara*, not least for its mixture of styles. The raised stage uses a central revolve decked with sparsely evocative scenery (a stylised tree with a right-angled lance of branches, a ring of bare posts to suggest prison) and backed by what variously appears as a frozen waterfall, a moonlit

pornography, it was pornography of the softest, most delicate kind. The two following pieces are slighter and virtually plotless. In one, Nakamura begins as a dancing girl and, after an interlude in which his own small sons frolic round the stage disguised as butterflies, becomes the rampaging beast with the monster mane. The other is a long, undulating and rather beautiful dance by Bando, who sports kimonos variously red, violet and silvery-grey as he traces the

decline of a lovelorn woman and her transformation into a ghostly hero. The stories may sometimes be a bit whimsical for western tastes, but the consistently gorgeous costumes and the performers' understated skills ensure that the eyes do not wander. Anybody wanting to discover Kabuki would do well to take a trip to the National sometime in the next two weeks.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

THEATRE  
Orin  
Mermaid

JAPAN'S theatre, like its commerce and industry, is omnivorously synthetic. Traditional forms may flourish, but the Chijikini Theatre Company borrows elements from the cinema and stage of both east and west to produce a boldly flexible stylistic blend associated in London more with the opera house than the theatre.

Though contemporaneous with the first world war - the play ends in 1921 - the action deals with the Japanese tradition of the goza, the blind girls trained to sing and dance (here to a

metronomic performance: the might was invested in the music, not in the beat, and in the finale there was a marvellous brave freedom of movement, to which the players responded as if they were playing chamber music.

A certain waywardness but rightness also marks Tennstedt's entry into Beethoven's sound world, a certain roughness in the ensemble, a refusal just to please (though pleasing moments there certainly were, especially from the clarinets). Inevitably in this symphony, the horns were at the heart of it: a full sextet in the braver and bolder passages, giving a tremendous lead, and an agile threesome in the scherzo's trio, with the quick low notes amusingly tucked into place. This was it: humour and gravity, but still suggestively sound and self-sufficient.

The composition piece was the Triple Concerto, and it was odd to have the spectacle of Tennstedt meekly dabbling in chords to accompany the long-spanning gurgles of the soloists. Maybe the performance would have been galvanised if Marisa Argerich had not withdrawn from it. But maybe not: Oli Mustonen was a likeable, rangy

replacement, seemingly waiting for the music to challenge him more. Mischa Maisky, tired of waiting, squeezed it for the utmost in expressiveness, and put his tuning at risk with his extreme vibrato. Gidon Kremer was the most persuasive way: military exactitude in the performance of brilliant but not very demanding exercises, and always an ironic smile.

The rough edges of Tennstedt's Beethoven would perhaps have struck a chord with Simon Rattle, who spoke last week about the need not to tame and polish this composer. Later this month there will be opportunities to hear Rattle's Beethoven when he accompanies Brendel in the complete piano concertos in Birmingham and London, but last week, in a characteristic bold programme with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra at Symphony Hall, his attention was on Schubert (the Ninth Symphony) and Weill.

This Weill part of the programme was a kind of Symphony Hall cabaret, the songs acted out alongside Rattle and his ensemble (including a wildly waiting but also beautiful, distant

electric guitar in "Surabaya Johnny" and a rich-voiced saxophone). After an abstract of *Happy End* in three songs, with Elise Koss getting every word of her bitter-sensuous recrimination across, despite Benjamin Luxon seeming a bit too pleasant to deserve it all, these two were joined by Aneka Gunton, Dama Evans, John Graham-Hall and Nicholas Folwell in the *Mahogany Songspiel*.

Making this suite of songs into a coherent dramatic entity would be hard, but Stephen Langridge, the producer, contrived a fairly appropriate journey from childhood enthusiasm into disillusionment, a journey undertaken by four boys in blue boiler suits and two girls in pink nurse outfits. On growing up they discovered that life is not just a matter of opening Christmas presents: the biggest parcel turned out to contain a car park. "Pay and Display" fixture. Maybe Weill-Brecht ought to be angrier, but the self-disgusted survivors of the music were registering strongly enough.

PAUL GRIFFITHS  
Arts features, page 13

## WORD-WATCHING

**FATISM**  
(a) Discrimination against, or the tendency to poke fun at, fat people, coined by the American psychologist Rita Freedman in *Bodyfear* (1988): "Lookism gives birth to fatism, another cruel stereotype that affects us all."

**THERICAC**  
(a) An antidote to poison, especially the bite of a venomous serpent, from the Greek *theriakos*, which means, somewhat threateningly, pertaining to either wild beasts or poisonous reptiles: "The Serpents themselves are usually missing in the wedding of theriac."

**NARE**  
(a) The nostril of a hawk, a word that is not often needed in general discourse, from the Latin *nare* nostris; Browning: "Who bade him bloody the spent osprey's nare?"

**ESCHAL**  
(a) A slop or portion of dead or disorganised tissue, especially an artificial slough produced by caustics, from the Greek *eschala* a scab: "When the eschar falls off, they will bleed again."

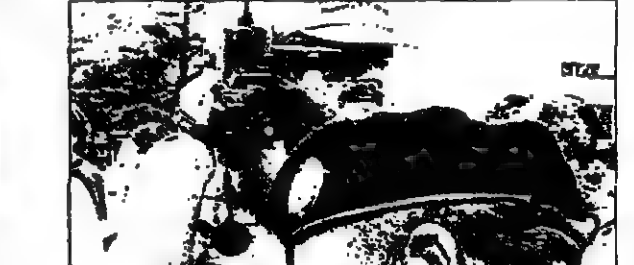
## ENTERTAINMENTS

## OPERA &amp; BALLET

**CONCERTS** 071 626 5163 or 071 626 5164 or 071 626 5165 or 071 626 5166 or 071 626 5167 or 071 626 5168 or 071 626 5169 or 071 626 5170 or 071 626 5171 or 071 626 5172 or 071 626 5173 or 071 626 5174 or 071 626 5175 or 071 626 5176 or 071 626 5177 or 071 626 5178 or 071 626 5179 or 071 626 5180 or 071 626 5181 or 071 626 5182 or 071 626 5183 or 071 626 5184 or 071 626 5185 or 071 626 5186 or 071 626 5187 or 071 626 5188 or 071 626 5189 or 071 626 5190 or 071 626 5191 or 071 626 5192 or 071 626 5193 or 071 626 5194 or 071 626 5195 or 071 626 5196 or 071 626 5197 or 071 626 5198 or 071 626 5199 or 071 626 5200 or 071 626 5201 or 071 626 5202 or 071 626 5203 or 071 626 5204 or 071 626 5205 or 071 626 5206 or 071 626 5207 or 071 626 5208 or 071 626 5209 or 071 626 5210 or 071 626 5211 or 071 626 5212 or 071 626 5213 or 071 626 5214 or 071 626 5215 or 071 626 5216 or 071 626 5217 or 071 626 5218 or 071 626 5219 or 071 626 5220 or 071 626 5221 or 071 626 5222 or 071 626 5223 or 071 626 5224 or 071 626 5225 or 071 626 5226 or 071 626 5227 or 071 626 5228 or 071 626 5229 or 071 626 5230 or 071 626 5231 or 071 626 5232 or 071 626 5233 or 071 626 5234 or 071 626 5235 or 071 626 5236 or 071 626 5237 or 071 626 5238 or 071 626 5239 or 071 626 5240 or 071 626 5241 or 071 626 5242 or 071 626 5243 or 071 626 5244 or 071 626 5245 or 071 626 5246 or 071 626 5247 or 071 626 5248 or 071 626 5249 or 071 626 5250 or 071 626 5251 or 071 626 5252 or 071 626 5253 or 071 626 5254 or 071 626 5255 or 071 626 5256 or 071 626 5257 or 071 626 5258 or 071 626 5259 or 071 626 5260 or 071 626 5261 or 071 626 5262 or 071 626 5263 or 071 626 5264 or 071 626 5265 or 071 626 5266 or 071 626 5267 or 071 626 5268 or 071 626 5269 or 071 626 5270 or 071 626 5271 or 071 626 5272 or 071 626 5273 or 071 626 5274 or 071 626 5275 or 071 626 5276 or 071 626 5277 or 071 626 5278 or 071 626 5279 or 071 626 5280 or 071 626 5281 or 071 626 5282 or 071 626 5283 or 071 626 5284 or 071 626 5285 or 071 626 5286 or 071 626 5287 or 071 626 5288 or 071 626 5289 or 071 626 5290 or 071 626 5291 or 071 626 5292 or 071 626 5293 or 071 626 5294 or 071 626 5295 or 071 626 5296 or 071 626 5297 or 071 626 5298 or 071 626 5299 or 071 626 5300 or 071 626 5301 or 071 626 5302 or 071 626 5303 or 071 626 5304 or 071 626 5305 or 071 626 5306 or



- 5.00 **The Channel 4 Daily**  
9.25 **Schools**
- 12.00 **Right to Reply** includes a discussion on Wednesday's Dispatches about a sinister organisation including policemen and paramilitaries that plots the deaths of suspected IRA supporters in Northern Ireland (r). (Teletext)
- 12.30 **Business Daily** introduced by Susannah Simons
- 1.00 **Sesame Street**, Pre-school learning series
- 2.00 **Film: The Lamp Still Burns** (1943, b/w) starring Rosamund John, Godfrey Tearle and Stewart Granger. Doctor's low-key second world war movie about a doctor about to die in a British hospital as experienced by a probationary nurse. Directed by Maurice Elvey
- 3.40 **Film: Enchanted Island** (1956). A travelogue about the South Sea island of Samoa, much loved by Robert Louis Stevenson
- 4.00 **Lets Do More Muck and Magic** Organic gardening series presented by Rebecca Pove and Alan Gear. This afternoon they are joined by Thelma Barlow (Mavis Wotton in *Coronation Street*), a keen organic gardener (r)
- 4.30 **Fifteen-to-one**, Cuck-ri general knowledge quiz hosted by William G. Stewart (s)
- 5.00 **The Late Late Show**. Dublin's music and chat show hosted by Gay Byrne
- 6.00 **Wonder Years**. Award-winning American comedy series about growing up in the late 1960s, starring Fred Savage
- 6.30 **The Henderson Kids** Australian drama series that launched the career of Kylie Minogue
- 7.00 **Channel 4 News** (Teletext) Weather
- 8.00 **Brookside** Episode 999 of the drama serial set in a Merseyside close. The police investigate the disappearance of Sue and Daniel Sullivan. (Teletext) (s)
- 8.30 **Inspector Morse: The Last Enemy** The third of a five-case series for the policeman, which begins when a body is discovered in an Oxford canal. The only clue to its identity is a possible connection with one of the colleges. Starring John Thaw, Kevin Whately, Barry Foster and Michael Aldridge (r) (Teletext)
- 10.30 **E.N.G.** The final episode of the punchy Canadian drama set in a television news station. The journalists' jobs are on the line when a conglomerate tries to buy Channel 10 (Teletext) (s)



\_\_\_\_\_



**Photo-opportunity: AWS party leader, Terreblanche (11.30pm)**

**11.30 The Leader, His Driver and the Driver's Wife.**  
 ● **CHOICE:** Neel Broomfield's documentary, first shown in April and given an honourable mention at the recent Prix Italia, is an irreverent journey to South Africa in search of Eugene Terreblanche. As the head of the militant white AWS party, Terreblanche regards both President de Klerk and Nelson Mandela as versions of the Devil. Broomfield tries to arrange an interview but Terreblanche plays hard to get. Stood up several times, Broomfield tries another approach, making friends with Terreblanche's driver, J. P. Meyer, who proves to be quite a character. So does Mrs Meyer, a nurse who gives out condoms to the blacks apparently without incurring AWS wrath. As a running gag, the pursuit of the fearsome, ranting Terreblanche eventually starts to wear thin but there is much macabre fun along the way (r)  
**Ends at 12.00am**

League Football 2.00pm Watersports 7.00pm  
Scottish League Football 5.00 Super  
6.00 Netbusters 6.30 NFL Follies 7.00 W

**Wrestling** 8.00 Klok 8.00 Italian League  
Football 11.00 World of Adventure 12.00  
Inclusives 12.30pm WWF Wrestling

**EUROSPORT**

At Via Astra satellite  
2.00am Cycling 2.30 European Tennis  
Chess 4.00 Tennis/Toujours Open 6.00  
Boxing 7.00 Euro Fun Magazine 7.30 Rally  
Chase 8.00 Off Road 8.00 Equineview 9.00 Motor  
Cycling 9.30 EuroSport News 10.00 Football  
Euro Goals 11.00 Kick-Start 12.00 Selling  
Catamenian World Championships 12.30am  
European News

**SCREENSPORT**

At Via Astra satellite  
1.00am Football 2.00 Basketball 8.30  
Desert Jinks Superbike 9.30 Football 10.00  
Rugby World Cup 11.00 American College  
Basketball 1.00pm Power Sports 2.00 Japan  
Rugby World Cup Championships 3.00 Sport de


**LIFESTYLE**

At Via Astra satellite  
7.00am Eurobus 7.30m Japan Sports Car  
Championships 8.00 Rugby League 9.00  
Eurobus 10.00 Rugby World Cup 1991  
Match of the week 11.00 Volvo Pops  
Music 12.00 The 100 Best of France  
12.30pm Johnnie Walker Golf Report 12.45  
Rugby World Cup: New Zealand v USA (ENG)  
The following programmes are subject to  
alteration) 2.45 Rugby World Cup: England  
v Italy 5.00 Desert Jinks Superbike 6.00  
Eurobus 6.30 Superbikes & Legends 7.00  
Pops Superbike 7.30m Johnnie Walker Golf  
Report 7.45 Rugby World Cup 1991: France  
v Fiji 8.30 Rugby World Cup Highlights  
10.30 Live Musicatrascan Prix des

## home turn

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# Iraqi nuclear waste is destined for Dounreay

By KERRY GILL

A FIRST shipment of Iraqi nuclear waste could arrive in Britain by the end of this month and is likely to be sent to the Dounreay nuclear reprocessing complex in Caithness, it emerged yesterday.

More than 50lb of irradiated uranium, originally from the Soviet Union and used by President Saddam Hussein for nuclear research, is believed to be destined for Dounreay. Documents obtained by the *Sunday Mail* newspaper indicate that Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, will comply with the plan if John Wake-

ham, the energy secretary, and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, believe it would be in "the UK's overall interests".

The move, reported by the *Sunday Mail* and another newspaper, *Scotland on Sunday*, was said to be part of the £13 million post-Gulf war clean-up. The UN's International Atomic Energy Agency is handling disposal of the waste, and Britain and France have joined forces to bid for the contract. The plan would cause a political storm in Scotland, where the Scottish National party has campaigned against the dumping of nuclear waste.

A spokesman for the IAEA, based in Vienna, said yesterday the British and French governments had each agreed to accept about half of the fuel. The French would take all that supplied by themselves and some Soviet-sourced fuel, while the British would take the bulk of that from the Soviet Union. Dounreay was the favoured site.

He said that a team would leave on Wednesday for Baghdad and would begin work at the site of the two reactors, about 18 miles from the capital, by the end of this week. The sites suffered extensive damage during the Gulf war from allied bombing.

A Scottish Office spokesman said yesterday: "It is not our practice to discuss the contents of documents which have been improperly obtained. Announcement of British participation is for the IAEA, and who have requested assistance from the UN, and who have requested assistance from the UK and France in view of these countries' expertise."

In his letter to Mr Wakeham, Mr Lang said the possible participation of Dounreay "will cause me no little difficulty - especially from the SNP". However, Robert Maclean, Liberal Democrat MP for Caithness and Sutherland, said: "The UN has just revealed that Iraq was within weeks of possessing a nuclear delivery capability. We in this country should play our part in stripping that out and getting Iraq's nuclear material into safe hands. Dounreay is able to help the UN do that."

## Duchess shreds her secrets

By JOE JOSEPH

PERHAPS the tabloid press has been too harsh on the Duchess of York and her need to fight against flab. If, now and then, you notice an odd bulge about her, it may be nothing more mysterious than a paper shredder.

The shredder apparently goes everywhere the duchess goes to make sure that personal information does not fall into the wrong hands. She destroys all her love letters from Prince Andrew. She has also given up keeping a diary. She fears that details from both might be published other than in her own memoirs.

"Andrew used to write me wonderful letters from ship. When he goes to sea for six months he writes good letters, but I haven't kept them," she told David Frost yesterday on 71-am. "I did for a bit, in the bank, but then I thought the bank would be robbed. I got too frightened that some of my entries might end up in rather the wrong places, so I decided to forget them."

The duchess said she was horrified when she sometimes picked up a newspaper to find that they knew when she got up and what she did. "I think it is better there are little facts that are unknown," she said, adding how important it was for the family to have somewhere to be themselves.



Soft-hearted strongman: one of the top Japanese sumo wrestlers now in London to compete in a grand sumo tournament, which starts at the Albert Hall on Wednesday, takes a firm grip on a Super Softer ice cream during a prolonged bout of sightseeing yesterday

## Tories aim to boost NHS and cut taxes

Continued from page 1

the economic prizes in the European Community would go to the countries with low tax regimes.

Mr Patten's remarks on the BBC's *On the Record* programme will reassure right-wing Tory MPs that the party is not losing its distinctive cutting edge under Mr Major. This concern surfaced yesterday in a plea by Norman Tebbit, the former Tory chairman, for the party to concentrate on its "strong" issues.

Mr Tebbit said that Mr Major's rallying cry to the conference should emphasise the commitment to stable prices and lower taxes, a refusal to countenance rule by trade union bosses and a defence of choice, enterprise and the market system. Mr Major should, he said, deal with Labour's "mealy-mouthed lies" concisely.

The Conservatives' embarrassment over the NHS was compounded yesterday with

the disclosure that the Selsdon Group of right-wing Tory MPs, of which Mr Tebbit is president, is to publish a pamphlet tomorrow calling for a switch to a community-based insurance system of funding the NHS.

Robin Cook, Labour's health spokesman, pounced on the report, saying that it proved that privatisation was still on the Tory agenda.

Voting intentions in the PA/ICM poll were: Labour 42 per cent, Conservatives 40 per cent, Liberal Democrats 13 per cent, Greens 2 per cent, Scottish National Party 2 per cent. Polling was conducted between September 28 and October 3. NOP's ratings were: Labour 46 per cent, Conservatives 39 per cent, Liberal Democrats 13 per cent.

More poll, page 6  
Blackpool party time, page 12  
Peter Riddell, page 14  
Diary, page 14

## Pacific cyclone hits Wales

Continued from page 1

who have the dimension of a medium-sized deep freezer, came in horizontal, waist-high. The Welsh, quite simply, could not take it. For an hour they were overrun in every department; when Emyr, their winger, scored the try that prompted a revival in the last 15 minutes, the Samoans should long before have been out of reach.

Symbolic of the match was the moment of half-time: Clement was prostrate and motionless on the turf, while the massive flanker, Perelini, whose airborne 16-stone tackle arrived at the moment Clement released a pass, walked away unconcerned. "They will hurt a number of people," Iwan Evans, Wales' captain, said without rancour. "They knocked us back... I don't think this is the bottom. It was a better performance than against Australia [the summer slaughter]."

If something in Welsh rugby died on the day they were driven towards having to qualify for the next World

Cup, it was as though the public was prepared for the funeral beforehand. The match began with barely a murmur, in the land where rugby is religion.

It was only when defeat began to take the shape of humiliation, at 13-3, that pride surged back into the hitherto moribund spectators. Where a moment before the applause was for the visitors, now the cry went up for Wales. And Wales responded.

Suddenly, the strength drained from the Samoan front five. The Welsh ran the ball back and forth across the pitch. Emyr scored. Ring converted: 13-9. The hunt was on. Brilliantly, Ring gained 50 yards into touch. The Samoan backs remained steadfast. The powerful Lewis was stopped in his tracks yards from the line by men half his size. Gibbs, agonisingly, fumbled a pass 20 yards out with Samoa broken. Lima counter-attacked, was halted four yards out; and Vaea kicked the penalty that gave Samoa breathing space. Back came Wales. Davies was

smothered again; from the scrum, the ball was played back, out, and Evans went over in the corner. But it was too little, too late, too inferior.

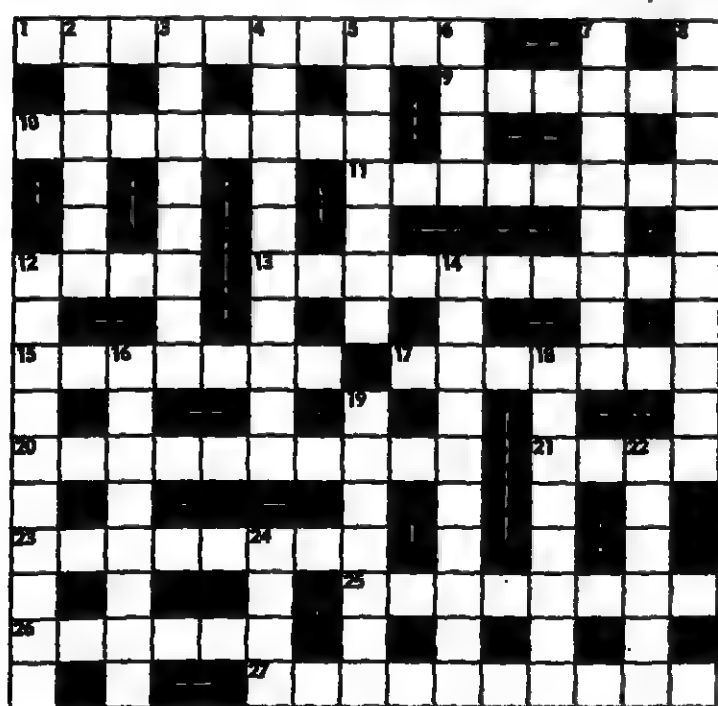
Fatiola said they ran out of petrol in the last ten minutes, but "we'll go for broke against Australia". Wales' coach, Norster, said they were going to a rehabilitation centre. That seemed appropriate.

Irish run riot, page 31  
Wales match report, page 36

## TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

Lovely blazers, juicy and crisp: Who thinks that "you should be able to shop for clothes like buying apples"? Giorgio Armani does. The man who restructured the idea of extravagantly priced designer clothes in the 1970s has done it again. Next month he launches a recession-busting collection of fashion staples for the 1990s - basic jeans and T-shirts, navy blazers and silk tops - mostly priced under £100. As the Milan shows, Liz Smith has already seen Armani's new simple strategy in action with his Emporio line - and she previews the sophisticated, clean cut of the main collection that Armani will unveil on Thursday

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,730



### ACROSS

- 1 Turner is employed to do some of the cooking (10).
- 9 Breed of goats originating from Aragon (6).
- 10 Vehicles holding a leading position - they have staying power! (8).
- 11 The swan song showing taste (8).
- 12 Enchanting creature needing a little experience (4).
- 13 Gather one is to hold a key by manual arrangement (10).
- 15 Animal refuge that's about right for a certain group (7).
- 17 He may well be fired - but not for getting tight! (7).
- 20 Adjournment a put-up job? (10).

### DOWN

- 21 Fish in an endless variety of colour (4).
- 23 Sturdy but stupid lot (8).
- 25 Contracts for trapping game (8).
- 26 There's some point to a flower festival (6).
- 27 Just supposing love is in the ascendant! (10).
- 2 The prophet of television (6).
- 3 Invite possibly about a hundred unemployed (8).
- 4 Standing still is not for women folk! (10).
- 5 Particular consideration (7).
- 6 Get near as can be (4).
- 7 In brave hands this could be deadly (8).
- 8 A check on stock in a minor way (6-4).
- 12 He's expected to step out with due regard for the dog (4-6).
- 14 Well the fellow just doesn't want to work! (10).
- 16 Incorrectly state it's most fashionable (8).
- 18 Falls for a rotter involved in more than one lawsuit (8).
- 19 Construct the first inside in error (7).
- 22 Back a relentless union (6).
- 24 Kind and virtuous person without alternative (4).

**PARKER DUOFOLD**

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 18,729 will appear next Saturday. The 5 winners will receive a Duofold fountain pen supplied by Parker

### WORD WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- FATISM**  
a. Disaffection against the fat  
b. A belief in Fate  
c. Compulsive habbling talk
- THERIAC**  
a. A summary  
b. A narcotic leaf for chewing  
c. An antidote to poison
- NARE**  
a. To curve in and  
b. A breed of wild horse  
c. A hawk's nostril
- ESCHAR**  
a. A legal freezing of assets  
b. To flange in cooking  
c. A piece of dead tissue

Answers on page 18, column 1

### AA ROADWATCH

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M-ways/roads M1-M4 732  
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T 733  
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23 734  
M-ways/roads M23-M4 735  
M25 London Orbital only 736

National  
National motorways 737  
West Country 738  
Wales 739  
Midlands 740  
East Anglia 741  
North-west England 742  
North-east England 743  
Scotland 744  
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

## WEATHER

The southeastern corner of England will be dry and bright with some sunshine. The rest of England and Wales will have a cloudy day with rain at times and just occasional brighter spells, more so in the north. It will be windy, with gales in parts of the north. Northern Ireland and Scotland will have a mixture of sunshine and showers. Outlook: sunny spells and scattered showers

### TEMPERATURES

Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.
London	10	5	1
Edinburgh	10	5	1
Belfast	10	5	1
Cardiff	10	5	1
Manchester	10	5	1
Sheffield	10	5	1
Nottingham	10	5	1
Leeds	10	5	1
Birmingham	10	5	1
Coventry	10	5	1
Gloucester	10	5	1
Bristol	10	5	1
Exeter	10	5	1
Cardiff	10	5	1
Swansea	10	5	1
Wrexham	10	5	1
Blackpool	10	5	1
Liverpool	10	5	1
Manchester	10	5	1
Sheffield	10	5	1
Nottingham	10	5	1
Leeds	10	5	1
Birmingham	10	5	1
Coventry	10	5	1
Gloucester	10	5	1
Bristol	10	5	1
Exeter	10	5	1
Cardiff	10	5	1
Swansea	10	5	1
Wrexham	10	5	1
Blackpool	10	5	1
Liverpool	10	5	1

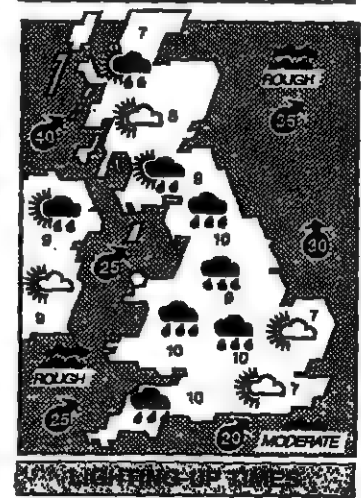
### WINDS

Direction	Force	Direction	Force
London	10	Edinburgh	10
Belfast	10	Cardiff	10
Manchester	10	Sheffield	10
Nottingham	10	Leeds	10
Birmingham	10	Coventry	10
Gloucester	10	Bristol	10
Exeter	10	Cardiff	10
Swansea	10	Wrexham	10
Blackpool	10	Liverpool	10
Manchester	10	Sheffield	10
Nottingham	10	Leeds	10
Birmingham	10	Coventry	10
Gloucester	10	Bristol	10
Exeter	10	Cardiff	10
Swansea	10	Wrexham	10
Blackpool	10	Liverpool	10

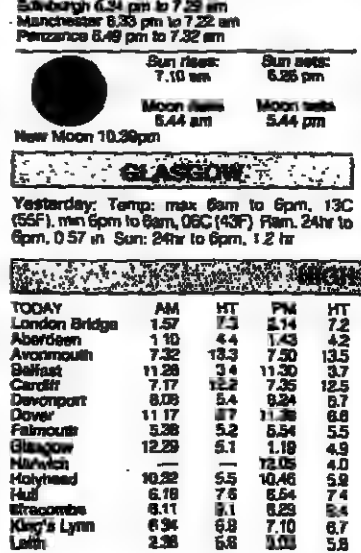
### MOON PHASES

Date	Phase	Date	Phase
10/7/91	New Moon	10/14/91	Full Moon
10/14/91	First Quarter	10/21/91	Last Quarter
10/21/91	Full Moon	10/28/91	New Moon
10/28/91	First Quarter	11/4/91	Last Quarter
11/4/91	Full Moon	11/11/91	New Moon
11/11/91	First Quarter	11/18/91	Last Quarter
11/18/91	Full Moon	11/25/91	New Moon
11/25/91	First Quarter	12/2/91	Last Quarter
12/2/91	Full Moon	12/9/91	New Moon
12/9/91	First Quarter	12/16/91	Last Quarter
12/16/91	Full Moon	12/23/91	New Moon
12/23/91	First Quarter	12/30/91	Last Quarter

## GLASGOW



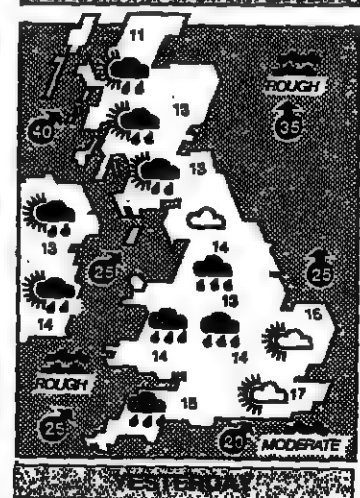
### MANCHESTER



### WINDS

Direction	Force	Direction	Force
London	10	Edinburgh	10
Belfast	10	Cardiff	10
Manchester	10	Sheffield	10
Nottingham	10	Leeds	10
Birmingham	10	Coventry	10
Gloucester	10	Bristol	10
Exeter	10	Cardiff	10
Swansea	10	Wrexham	10
Blackpool	10	Liverpool	10
Manchester	10	Sheffield	10
Nottingham	10	Leeds	10
Birmingham	10	Coventry	10
Gloucester	10	Bristol	10
Exeter	10	Cardiff	10
Swansea	10	Wrexham	10
Blackpool	10	Liverpool	10

## WINDS



### MOON PHASES

Date	Phase	Date	Phase
10/7/91	New Moon	10/14/91	Full Moon
10/14/91	First Quarter	10/21/91	Last Quarter
10/21/91	Full Moon	10/28/91	New Moon
10/28/91	First Quarter	11/4/91	Last Quarter
11/4/91	Full Moon	11/11/91	New Moon
11/11/91	First Quarter	11/18/91	Last Quarter
11/18/91	Full Moon	11/25/91	New Moon
11/25/91	First Quarter	12/2/91	Last Quarter
12/2/91	Full Moon	12/9/91	New Moon
12/9/91	First Quarter	12/16/91	Last Quarter
12/16/91	Full Moon	12/23/91	New Moon
12/23/91	First Quarter	12/30/91	Last Quarter

### MOON PHASES

Date	Phase	Date	Phase
10/7/91	New Moon	10/14/91	Full Moon
10/14/91	First Quarter	10/21/91	Last Quarter
10/21/91	Full Moon	10/28/91	New Moon
10/28/91	First Quarter	11/4/91	Last Quarter
11/4/91	Full Moon	11/11/91	New Moon
11/11/91	First Quarter	11/18/91	Last Quarter
11/18/91	Full Moon	11/25/91	New Moon
11/25/91	First Quarter	12/2/91	Last Quarter
12/2/91	Full Moon	12/9/91	New Moon
12/9/91	First Quarter	12/16/91	Last Quarter
12/16/91	Full Moon	12/23/91	New Moon
12/23/91	First Quarter	12/30/91	Last Quarter

Regulation  
time needs  
viewing

ROUND

MARKET



MONDAY OCTOBER 7 1991

## Signs of recovery boost confidence

By COLIN NARBROUGH  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BUSINESS confidence is turning round, driven by signs of economic recovery, according to Dun & Bradstreet, the world's leading business information group.

A bullish assessment by the economics team at James Capel, the broker, however, advises Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, not to push base rates below 10 per cent, as the economy should have returned to year-on-year growth by the end of this year and be on course for 2.7 per cent growth in 1992. Capel says core inflation is set to collapse from 5.8 per cent in August to 2.5 per cent.

The quarterly survey by Dun & Bradstreet identifies a "significant turnaround" in business confidence in September, following the last base rate cut, with more optimism reported for all the main indicators. Expectations for higher sales, profits and orders in the next three months all show positive balances.

The balance for sales shows 11 per cent, against -13 per cent in the previous survey. Net profits are at 8 per cent, after -30 per cent, while new orders show 13 per cent (-17 per cent). There is a positive balance of 20 per cent of companies in favour of building up stocks.

Export expectations waned, however, and firms see little sign of a slowdown in unemployment. One in three expects to lay off staff. On prices, however, the survey shows a continued fall, confirming the downward trend in underlying inflation.

Philip Mellor, Dun & Bradstreet marketing manager, said that although the overall picture was "much, much better" than three months ago, the degree of optimism was "not sharp enough to indicate any more than a sluggish recovery in the economy". He stressed that levels of business confidence were only back to where they were at the beginning of the recession.

A survey by Infolink, the credit information agency, shows demand for consumer credit in August at 6.1 per cent higher than in August last year. Consumers are showing less enthusiasm for higher-value items, however.

## Regulation 'game needs reviewing'

THE lack of clarity and certainty in rules governing Britain's privatised industries is turning regulation into a "game" between industry chiefs and regulators, according to the Institute of Economic Affairs.

The institute says the regulatory regime suffers from weak accountability, prevents judicial review, and keeps crucial information from the public.

Dr Cento Veljanovski, a senior research fellow, says the political imperative to privatise led to a trade-off in favour of monopoly and regulation. Therefore, "the structure of the industry is fundamentally at odds with the goal of competition".

He says a review body should be set up to compare progress on regulation with the original criteria set out by Professor Stephen Littlechild, now director general of electricity supply.

**CHANGE ON WEEK**

**THE POUND**

US dollar 1.7410 (+0.0055)  
German mark 2.9162 (+0.0006)  
Exchange index 90.9 (-0.1)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

**STOCK MARKET**

FT 30 share 2018.7 (-0.2)  
FT-SE 100 2624.6 (+25.6)  
New York Dow Jones 2961.76 (-44.28)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 24596.90 (+627.43)

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# Toyota promises long-term employment at new plants

TOYOTA, the Japanese car manufacturer, is offering employees at its new British car plants unprecedented promises of long-term employment as part of a single-union, strike-free deal it is seeking (Philip Bassett writes).

Toyota's move comes as unions representing Ford's 32,000 manual workers prepare to press for improved job security. Next Monday, Ford workers will present management with detailed plans for a package based on American practices, which would increase the redundancy and other benefits available.

Lifetime employment is a principal feature of employee relations in Japan among the country's large corporations,

such as Sony, Nissan, Matsushita and Toyota. Although Japanese companies have exported many of their management practices when setting up in other countries, including their manufacturing plants in Europe, the guarantee of lifetime employment has never been offered outside Japan.

While Toyota's plans on job security at its car plant at Burnaston, near Derby, and its engine plant at Shotton, North Wales, stops well short of a lifetime employment guarantee, employment law specialists agree that it goes further than many British manufacturers have gone in determining to maintain employment for its workers.

The confidential 59-page draft agree-

ment that Toyota has put to the five unions bidding to be the chosen union at the two plants - the AEU engineering union, the EETPU electricians, the GMB general workers, the TGWU transport union and the MSF general technical union - stresses the job security of Toyota "members", the term Japanese companies often use for their employees.

The draft says members' job security, prosperity and development depend on the company continuing to grow and be successful. Both the company and the union chosen must recognise that the objective is not only to achieve short-term success but long-term prosperity.

The agreement says: "Recognising that

job security is a constant priority of members, the company aims to provide long-term stable employment and the opportunity for members to maintain their basic hours of work."

Employment law specialists believe that although this and similar phraseology in the agreement could not carry any contractual weight, unless the agreement is appended to individual employees' employment contracts, it is not only unusual for a British collective agreement but goes further than such agreements usually go.

What Toyota proposes is in line with the stability its British managers want in their workforce, the bulk of which will be hired

next year, in time for the start of production of 100,000 cars annually from next December.

As a consequence of the company's views on long-term employment, Toyota is carrying out the most extensive recruitment procedures ever seen in British manufacturing, with all employees, including production-line workers, likely to have to go through up to 14 hours of interviews and tests.

Toyota, which will require its British employees to be "good Toyota (UK) citizens" and to "perform excellent work", according to the draft, has caused some consternation among the unions with a number of its requirements.

## Pay increases show sharp drop to 5.5%

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

PAY settlements in British industry are continuing to fall sharply, according to the latest survey from the Confederation of British Industry, which shows wage increases declining by almost a full percentage point, to 5.5 per cent, in the third quarter of this year.

The latest findings of the CBI's pay databank, published today, will be welcome economic news for the government, suggesting that the combination of lower inflation, lower interest and mortgage rates and still-rising unemployment is impacting strongly on pay, and continuing to persuade wage negotiators to accept lower deals.

The CBI survey comes

ahead of what is expected to be a further fall in headline inflation. Figures to be published on Friday are forecast by the City to show retail inflation continuing to fall. Some analysts suggest that August's 4.7 per cent figure may drop to 4.3 per cent.

Though CBI leaders are proclaiming the continuing fall in pay settlement levels as a significant economic improvement, independent pay analysts pointed out yesterday that the rate of increases recorded by the CBI, at 5.5 per cent for the three months to September, is still well ahead of inflation. If the City's forecasts are right, average inflation over the same period has been about 4.8 per cent.

In the last CBI databank survey, pay deals showed their sharpest fall for a decade when

they dropped from 8.1 per cent in the first quarter to 6.4 per cent. Now, one settlement in four is less than 4 per cent, compared with only one in 20 in the fourth quarter of 1990.

The CBI says today, too, that its latest pay figure is for settlements only, and therefore takes no account of the fact that one manufacturer in ten that would normally have struck a pay deal has instead frozen its pay. In addition, the CBI suggests that the unprecedentedly wide variation in the pay deals it is recording - the largest since the databank began in 1979 - suggests companies are increasingly relating pay directly to their own circumstances, breaking the link with the cost of living.

John Bazbam, CBI director general, said: "Pay settlements in UK manufacturing industry are now below the level of those in west Germany and closing on those in France, while productivity is rising. This bodes well for the competitiveness of Britain's businesses, for inflation and for the prospect of lower interest rates."

The CBI predicts that productivity may improve so much that unit labour costs may have actually declined, by 0.6 per cent, in the second quarter of this year.

In its autumn presentation on pay, the CBI raises the question of whether there is a floor for pay rises, a "psychological barrier" of 5 per cent under which wage deals will not fall. Ministers are also concerned about this and will look next week to see if the increase in average earnings has fallen below 7.5 per cent for the first time for a decade.

The CBI also says that with inflation set to fall still further, there is little real prospect of pay rises starting to increase again when the economic recovery is under way. But in a separate pay analysis, the Reward pay group suggests that there may be a resurgence of pay inflation.

Local government manual workers have accepted pay increases of 6.5 per cent and improvements in hours. Jack Dromey, national secretary of the TGWU transport union, and a front-runner in the contest for the union's deputy general secretaryship, said it was a good deal that would see a better service for local communities.



Clear message: Sir Graham Day is expected to deliver a bullish speech today

## Hanson profits criticised

HANSON, the acquisitive conglomerate, draws more than a third of its earnings from "low quality", or non-operating sources, such as tax avoidance, dealing profits and interest arbitrage, according to a confidential report by James Capel, the stockbroker (Neil Bennett writes).

The report is likely to fuel the criticisms of Hanson in the war of words with ICI that started in May when Hanson took a 2.8 per cent stake in the chemical group.

An investigation, led by Paul Beaufre, Capel's conglomerate analyst, has uncovered a web of Panamanian subsidiaries owned by Hanson and are used as tax havens for its huge interest earnings.

Capel estimates that the group generated 15 per cent of its earnings in 1989-90 by using loopholes in Britain to avoid paying tax on interest earnings. It says: "It must be assumed that the public airing given to this matter has attracted inland Reserve attention at the highest level."

The broker says that a further 15 per cent of the group's earnings come from exploiting the differences in British and American interest rates: most of Hanson's debts are in dollars while it had sterling

cash deposits of £3.2 billion at the last balance sheet. The report also criticises Hanson's wide use of provisions on its accounts and predicts it will repeat the process with Beazer, the builder for which it has offered £351 million.

Mr Beaufre claims Hanson's accounting policies attract

"the disapproval of industrial conservatives and accounting purists", which accounts for the low value of the shares. Nevertheless he is advising institutions to buy Hanson shares, since he says these are taken into account in the price.

Treasurers for investors, page 23

## ATR in talks on De Havilland bid

From TOM WALKER  
IN MANCHESTER

LEADERS of ATR, the joint French-Italian aircraft consortium, will today open discussions with the European Commission to restructure its bid for De Havilland of Canada following the EC's decision to block the bid.

Roland Duman, the French foreign minister, yesterday said that ATR, which along with Alenia of Italy owns the Toulouse-based ATR, would open talks with the Commission. He said the blocking of the bid "had been a most regrettable decision", and that Sir Leon Brittan's competition team had "no business hampering European industry".

M Duman's insistence that the matter should be brought up at yesterday's meeting of European foreign ministers annoyed ministers, who felt they had more urgent matters to discuss with only nine weeks remaining before the Maastricht summit in December.

Douglas Hurd, the British foreign secretary said: "I was rather surprised it was discussed at all. The Commission has powers in this area; we were hesitant in granting them



Britain: difficult decision

those powers, but now they have them. They are controversial and we've had our own problems in Britain, but what is certain is that they are not the business of the Council."

The decision to block the deal, which would have merged the world's number one commuter turbo-prop maker with the world's number two, was one of the most controversial Sir Leon has taken during his three-year term as competition commissioner.

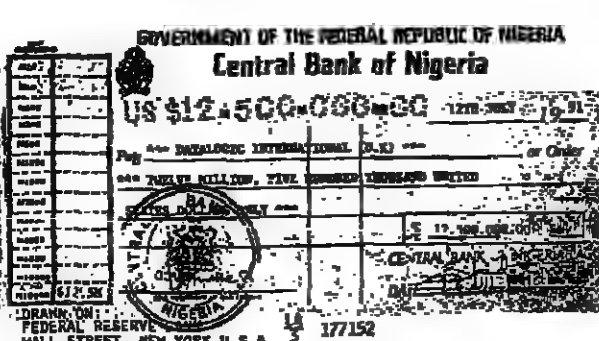
Sir Leon was rumoured to be threatening to resign if his fellow Commissioners voted against him.

## Firms feel pain of an African sting

By NEIL BENNETT  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of British businesses regret the day they received a letter from Nigeria offering them millions of dollars to play a part in a plan to defraud the Nigerian government. They soon found they were the victims of an international "sting", with little chance of seeing their money, or the fraudsters, again.

The latest wave of Nigerian fraud started last year, when dozens of small companies received letters from "consultancies" in Lagos offering what seemed an unbeatable deal. The author of the letter claimed he had access of a large sum of hard currency, normally about \$25 million, in a Nigerian government department. The money had been intended to pay for a large overseas contract, which, claimed the letter, had either



Draft of receipt: one of the fraudulent documents

been cancelled or been cheaper than expected: the department had simply forgotten the cash was still there.

The author said he could get the money but needed to send it to a hard currency account abroad. He concluded by asking for help in return for a 30 or 35 per cent cut. For many, the thought of a \$9 million windfall was irresistible. They wrote back and were soon

talking and writing daily to their new Nigerian "partner". He normally wanted four copies of blank, but signed company notepaper, false invoices and bank details.

In at least one case, the Nigerians travelled to Britain and stayed for a week, at their victim's expense, to plan the operation. In turn, they produced documents supposedly from the Nigerian finance

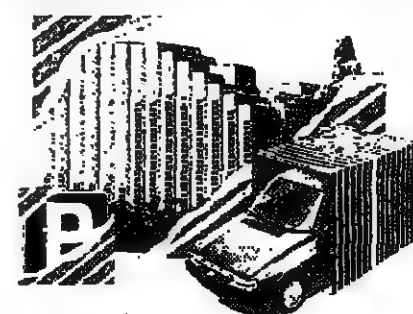
ministry and the central bank. One company was issued with a forged draft from the central bank for \$12.5 million drawn on the Federal Reserve Bank in New York.

Transfer day arrived, but then came the last-minute hitch. The fraudster telephoned; he needed more money for bribing another official or to pay for passage to Europe to collect his share. Many companies handed over £10,000 or £20,000 to complete the deal. In every case, the Nigerians have never been heard from again.

Scotland Yard is investigating more than 100 cases, while others have been reported in The Netherlands and America. The Central Bank of Nigeria has published adverts disassociating itself from the frauds. Meanwhile, the maximum penalty for economic sabotage in Nigeria is death by firing squad.

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## Ministers to press for debt relief deal

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

COMMONWEALTH finance ministers will this week seek to inject fresh momentum into the proposal John Major made as chancellor for cancelling most of the outstanding debt of the world's poorest countries.

The developing nations fear, however, that the leading industrial economies' pre-occupation with the Soviet Union and eastern Europe could prevent early agreement on the debt issue.

The associate membership of the International Monetary Fund granted to the Soviet Union at the weekend is likely to reinforce such fears, as a Soviet delegation can now attend meetings of the IMF and World Bank in Bangkok on October 13 to 17.

At a three-day meeting starting tomorrow in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur, the Commonwealth ministers hope to agree on a joint call for urgent debt relief to finance ministers and central bankers at the Bangkok gathering.

The Conservative party conference will prevent Norman Lamont, the Chancellor,

from attending the Commonwealth meeting, but he will take part in a meeting of the Group of Seven finance ministers in Bangkok on Friday and Saturday, before the IMF and World Bank sessions.

John Major, economic secretary to the Treasury, will represent him at Kuala Lumpur, where ministers will consider the British proposal for two thirds of the poorest nations' debt to be written off, with the remainder rescheduled over 25 years.

Anwar Ibrahim, the Malaysian finance minister who chairs the Commonwealth meeting, drew attention at the weekend to the fact that America had cancelled 70 per cent of Polish debt to Washington as a reward for Poland's move away from communism, but had failed to do the same for the poorest nations. He said the Commonwealth ministers would seek ways of ensuring that the poorer countries were not starved of capital because of an increased flow of funds to the Soviet Union and eastern Europe. Western governments and international agencies

have committed an estimated \$31 billion to eastern Europe since the end of 1989. Privatisation will be discussed by the Commonwealth ministers as part of a wider campaign to get the poorer economies to encourage inward investment by fostering the private sector.

Economic links with South Africa are also likely to be discussed although ministers are unlikely to endorse a restoration of normal commercial ties with the Pretoria government.

Mr Anwar said the debt problem would be discussed in the context of a report from a group of experts, *Changes for the better - global changes and economic development*. The flow of external funds to the poorest countries dropped in the late Eighties, while their debt burden rose, partly reflecting higher interest rates.

Recent figures from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, show that outstanding developing world debt last year swelled 4 per cent to \$1,450 billion. A decade earlier, it was less than \$600 billion.



Call to reject: Paul Torday, left, and Humphrey Odd

## Torday's defence criticised

By OUR CITY STAFF

DOWDING & Mills, the hostile bidders for Torday & Carlisle, the engineers, said yesterday that Torday's defence document concentrates on historic performance and not current problems.

In the document, posted on Saturday, Torday, chaired by Paul Torday, claims that the £13.6 million offer values the company at just 5.3 times its earnings for 1990, compared with an engineering sector multiple of 12.6 times.

However, a spokesman for Baring Brothers, which is advising Dowding, said that it was "very convenient" for Torday to select its 1990 figures when the company had slipped into pre-tax losses of £0.6 million for the first half of the current year.

Torday countered by pointing out that Dowding had seen its own profits for the year to end-June slide by 28 per cent to £8.4 million and that the slide in Torday's profits was entirely due to the trading losses incurred by Oldham Signs, which has been hit by the consumer downturn. Torday, where Humphrey Odd is finance director, urged shareholders to reject Dowding's "derisory offer."

## Shake-up at Fox expected as SFA chief takes over

By JONATHAN PAVIN

A SHAKE-UP of the London Futures and Options Exchange (Fox) looks certain to follow the appointment of Phillip Thorpe as chief executive after the departure of its two top officials at the weekend. The resignations of Saxon Tate, the chairman, and Mark Blundell, the chief executive, came at an extraordinary meeting of the Fox board on Saturday that was called to consider the closure of the exchange's property futures market.

The Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), of which Mr Thorpe is deputy chief executive, began an investigation of the property futures market on Wednesday after detecting "possible irregularities in its operation". Fox suspended the market voluntarily after the regulators informed it of their discovery.

In a statement issued through his solicitor, Mr Blundell said he had initiated "various trading activities in the property contracts". It adds: "He now accepts that this activity was incompatible with his responsibilities and

he has tendered his resignation, which has been accepted. The board is satisfied that the motivation was not personal gain." Though not directly involved, Mr Tate is thought to have accepted responsibility for the property futures affair.

In appointing Mr Thorpe, aged 37, Fox has indicated its intention to scrutinise its activities closely. Mr Thorpe, who is trained as a barrister, has an impressive reputation in derivatives market regulation in the United Kingdom and Hong Kong. He came to prominence in 1987 as chief executive of the colony's futures exchange in the wake of the worldwide stock market crash. In 1989, he was appointed chief executive of the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers, which was merged with the Securities Association this April.

A spokesman for Fox said the exchange would like to relaunch the property futures market, but the SFA and the Securities and Investments Board must first complete their enquiries.

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## ERM's impact is a matter of psychology

STERLING'S entry to the ERM a year ago will be judged one of the momentous decisions in modern economic policy. And yet, looking back over the past year, it is striking how little difference it has made to the conduct of policy or the behaviour of the economy.

At the time of entry, the thought was that British monetary policy would be largely determined by the Bundesbank. Indeed, many thought this shift of responsibility would be one of the main advantages of entry. The surprise has been the extent to which the differential between British and German short-term interest rates has narrowed - from about 6 percentage points before entry to about 1 point now. Not only have lower British rates owed nothing to lower German rates but, at times, British rates have been falling when their German counterparts have been rising.

Not that the easing of monetary policy has been unjustified - far from it. But it does mean the ERM has not (so far) worked as expected. The fall in base rates has been domestically driven, following inflation down. Inflation has improved for the simplest of reasons - the depth of the recession. All that can be said about the ERM's contribution is that a relatively stable exchange rate has been a conducive background factor.

The impact of ERM entry has probably been greatest in gilts. If being in the ERM has made little difference to inflation performance over the past year, it has changed expectations. There is a degree of confidence that the ERM constraint will inevitably become effective and the inflation psychology can be decisively changed.

A feature - perhaps the feature - of the economy since the end of the Bretton Woods system has been the tendency for relatively high wage settlements (or low productivity growth) to be offset by a tendency for sterling depreciation. As competitiveness has been lost, the adjustment has been external, via a depreciating currency, rather than internal via an improvement in the rate of increase of domestic costs. The point of the ERM is that without realignment the adjustment has to be internal.

Given the rigidity of inflation expectations in Britain, this adjustment could turn out to be a drawn-out, rather painful affair, involving relatively tight monetary policy, below-trend economic growth and high unemployment. But now there is a degree of confidence

this path will be taken, enhanced by the fact that exchange rate policy no longer seems to be part of the party political debate. There is a prize awaiting the next government - long-term, low-inflation growth. It may only be attained at the cost of restrictive monetary policy and low growth for a couple of years, but that may be an acceptable price to pay given political and economic cycles that could get back into line.

If we are on the threshold of a long-term inflation rate of 2.4 per cent, the potential for gain in the gilt market is obvious, despite the impressive performance of the market in the third quarter that generated a near 10 per cent return on long-dated gilts. Now, however, the market has stalled.

The problems facing the market are threshold. One is simply the doubts that the rosy scenario outlined above will come to pass. We have been on this threshold before - remember the MTFP? - and the "I'll believe it when I see it" school of thought has yielded impressive returns.

Also, politics cannot be ignored. There will come a time when the general election can be delayed no longer and the market will be sensitive to every nuance of the opinion polls. This might be more of a threat to short-term long-dated gilts. With base rates only just above German short-term rates, sterling could be accident-prone during what could prove to be the longest election campaign ever.

Finally, there is the problem of gilt supply. A cyclical effect plus a policy shift have pushed Britain into fiscal deficit and the prospect of sub-optimal growth and a post-Thatcherite approach to public spending implies this is what it will stay. A deficit of about 2.3 per cent of GDP is modest by American or German standards but does imply the demand for fixed-interest securities in a low-inflation world will be met by a willing seller.

Longer term, the outlook for gilts remains very encouraging and the inflation outlook will allow a further degree of convergence with other European bond yields. Funding pressures may have more implications for index-linked than conventional gilts with real yields set to remain at historically high levels. Political uncertainty could have another ten months to run but we might be in the curious position where risk-averse investors will find the longer end of the gilt market preferable to shorter-dated stock.

JOHN SHEPHERD  
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# Following ERM's hidden agenda

## ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY

Britain has survived a full year of membership of the European exchange-rate mechanism. The pound is only 1 per cent lower than a year ago, while interest rates have fallen 4½ points. Why then, do most of the ERM's critics remain unrepentant? Apart from natural human obstinacy, there are two more respectable reasons.

First, and less respectable because it depends on backward forecasting, there is the strong possibility that ERM membership aggravated the recession. The economic decline was already well under way by last October, so it could not be blamed on the ERM. Outside the system, however, Britain could have cut interest rates much faster and devalued the pound. If base rates had been cut to 10 or 11 per cent by Christmas instead of late summer, the turnaround in the economy could have been brought forward by six months. Six months may not seem like much in the great scheme of things, but tell that to the 350,000 extra people who have lost their jobs and the thousands of businessmen who have gone

bankrupt because the recession continued through the summer.

Of course, inflation might have remained somewhat higher if sterling had been weaker and unemployment had risen more slowly. On the other hand, if mortgage rates had been cut to their present level by last Christmas, the much faster collapse of the retail prices index might have had a crucial impact on the winter's pay bargaining. Whether this anti-inflationary benefit would have offset the pressure from devaluation on the wage/price spiral is a matter of guesswork, although it is worth recalling that inflation fell just as sharply in the devaluation years of 1981 and 1986 as in the past year.

All this is water under the bridge. The more important reasons for questioning the ERM strategy lie in the future, not the past. Britain now faces a year of sluggish activity that makes a mockery of the word "recovery".

Even the IMF's much-vaunted forecast of 2.3 per cent growth next year would not be sufficient to reduce unemployment or stimulate an upsurge of industrial investment.

Significantly, the IMF shows Britain second last in the international growth league next year after coming last in 1990 and 1991. To make matters worse, the only country behind Britain in 1992 will be Germany, whose underperformance will simply be a brief respite in the first few months of next year after the overheated activity that followed unification. By the second half of 1992, Britain will again be the unchallenged laggard of the industrialised world — and this is according to IMF forecasts,

touted as "bullish for Britain" by Conservative Central Office. According to conventional economic analysis, such as the IMF's, Britain is condemned to slow growth because otherwise the current account would balloon out of control at the present exchange rate. This argument may become more convincing in the months ahead as the surge in car and chemical exports due to capacity shortages in Germany abates.

The real danger of ERM membership may prove rather different. For ERM true believers, including the top Treasury knights, however, the balance of payments does not matter: provided the currency commitment is credible, deficits can

always be financed by borrowing from other ERM countries.

If this is true, and in the short run it may be, then Britain will soon be in a familiar fix. Until the adjustment to a strong pound is completed, and this is bound to take years, exporting from Britain will be relatively unprofitable compared with domestic production. As a result, it will be impossible for either exports or manufacturing investment to lead a genuine economic recovery. The only way to generate faster economic growth will be through another Lawson-style boom in consumption, services and housing.

Ironically, the supposed straitjacket of the ERM could actually provide the Treasury with a mechanism to get such a boomlet going between now and the election in six months. British interest rates could fall below Germany's if the pound were allowed to drift to the bottom of its wide ERM band but the

markets were persuaded that it would eventually rise back to its central parity of DM2.95 and then be fixed in a narrow band. Given the ERM credibility built up by Norman Lamont and John Smith, such expectations would not be far-fetched. The markets would assume that monetary policy would be tightened as the recovery gathered strength and that the currency eventually would rise back to DM2.95, providing a capital gain against the mark to compensate for the slightly lower interest earnings.

If sterling fell to about DM2.80 during the winter, British base rates could fall to 9 per cent and mortgage rates into single figures. Election victory would be within reach, especially if the government would publicly admit the economic illiteracy of trying to manage a free health service through market forces, as discussed in this column last week. Of course, Britain's economic structure would have taken another lurch away from industrial competitiveness and back to consumer self-indulgence. But that was always the ERM's hidden agenda.

## Excavation of Hanson empire unearths treasures for investors

Neil Bennett examines a report that casts light into some of Hanson's darker corners



Enigmatic smile: Hanson keeps the analysts guessing

HANSON'S annual reports are the City equivalent of the Dead Sea scrolls. Everyone knows they are important but few have the slightest idea what they mean. The reports' financial details may comply fully with existing company legislation but give few clues about the company's earnings, assets or tax position.

Now a team of financial archaeologists from James Capel, led by Paul Beaufre, its conglomerates analyst, has burrowed into all the information on Hanson and its subsidiaries available in microfiche files in Companies House.

They have come to the devastating conclusion that a third of the group's earnings come from non-operational or "fragile" sources. These include tax havens through a raft of Panamanian subsidiaries, interest arbitrage between Britain and America, and investment and dealing profits, mainly from disposals.

Hanson's tax efficiency has long been renowned. In the year to end-September 1990, the group paid only £314 million tax on a pre-tax profit of £1.29 billion, a rate of 24 per cent, compared to the standard UK rate of 35 per cent.

Capel's enquiries show how some of this is achieved. In the Hanson group there are three holding companies: Morebeat Ltd, Hanson Industrial Services and Hanson Overseas Holdings. In the last five years these have controlled at least 20 Panamanian subsidiaries, with names such as Craigen Corp and Vilcor Investments.

These, Capel claims, are being used to deposit Han-

son's vast cash reserves. In 1989, HIS deposited £4.3 billion in its Panamanian subsidiaries, out of Hanson's total cash reserves of £5.3 billion. Interest earned on deposits by a Panamanian company does not incur Panamanian tax.

Hanson's problems arise when it wants to remit the income back to Britain without incurring tax. Here Capel suggests that Hanson has constructed a complex payments

structure to take advantage of any loopholes in tax legislation. "Success in this objective will enable a company to... escape a tax net designed to trap such income, contravening the spirit though not the letter of the law," writes Mr Beaufre. "It must be assumed that the public airing given to this matter has attracted Inland Revenue attention at the highest level."

In fact, Hanson has been so

tax efficient that it is now suffering from unrelieved Advance Corporation Tax on its dividend payments, due to a lack of profits in Britain. This totalled an estimated £82 million last year, reducing the group's earnings by 8 per cent.

Hanson however will be able to set the payment against British profits in future years.

Last year, Capel estimates, Hanson reduced its tax by £145 million, 15 per cent of its earnings, by tax havens.

Hanson's massive cash deposits are another important source of non-operating income. Since 1985, the bulk of the money raised from disposals has been used not to repay debt but to earn interest.

Much of Hanson's debt is dollar denominated, while the deposits are principally in sterling. This allows the group to profit from the interest rate differential between Britain and America. In the current year the difference has run at an average of 5.7 per cent.

This has allowed the group to earn some £190 million in interest, even though its net cash balance has been only around £600 million.

In 1990, James Capel estimates, the group earned £156 million from interest rate arbitrage, another 15 per cent of its earnings. Real interest on surplus cash by contrast earned only an estimated £31 million.

The other area Mr Beaufre highlights is Hanson's acquisition accounting methods. Present accounting standards allow companies to make provisions for acquisitions to cover rationalisation and other costs. These are charged directly to reserves, so do not affect profits.

Hanson, which has made acquisitions worth £8.7 billion in the last five years, has naturally made more provisions than most. Indeed its provisions now stand at £3.44 billion, higher than the group's shareholders' funds.

These provisions, together with goodwill write-offs, have heavily reduced the book values of many Hanson subsidiaries. One result has been large profits from the group's many disposals. Most are

treated as extraordinary items but last year, Capel suggests, Hanson's profits included £104 million from the sale of investments from Consolidated Gold Fields. This and other deals brought in an estimated 13 per cent of Hanson's earnings.

In his summary, Mr Beaufre states that Hanson "has never enjoyed the universal approval or trust of the investment community". Critics, he says, argue that the group's financial motives fail to build its operations for the long-term, while others dislike its financial and accounting policies which swell earnings.

Despite this, and despite his discoveries, he is currently recommending the group's shares to fund managers. Even discounting its low-quality earnings Hanson's p/e ratio is 17 and it has a prospective yield of 6.6 per cent. Now some of the group's secrets have been uncovered, the City may value its shares more highly.

Source: James Capel estimates

HANSON'S FRAGILE PROFITS: 1985-90

Source	Pre-tax profit (£m)	Tax (£m)	Net profit (£m)	EPS (p)	%
Investment and dealing profits	150	-24	126	2.8	13
Interest arbitrage	156	-11	145	3.0	15
Tax havens	-	+145	145	3.0	15
Unrelieved ACT	-	-82	-82	-1.7	-8
Operations	978	-342	637	13.0	55
Published total	1285	-314	971	19.9	100

Source: James Capel estimates

## CAPITAL MARKETS

### Banks call the shots in multi-option market

A WAVE of refinancing is about to sweep through corporate Britain. The next two years will be the season for renewing the multi-option facility (MOF).

The MOF was the instrument dreamed up in the mid-Eighties that unfortunately (for the banks) gave British companies, large and not-so-large, access to huge amounts of credit at remarkably low prices.

Most were arranged from 1986 to 1988, and the majority had a life-span of five years. Hence the lifting of lips among bankers in anticipation of the deals coming up for renewal. For the balance of bargaining power has shifted sharply away from borrowers over the past year, with the withdrawal of huge amounts of capacity from the market.

Bankers are calling the shots, or at least like to think so, and are determined not to lose the opportunity to lock in lending rates for the next five years at a cyclical high point in the credit pricing cycle. Where

companies might have achieved all-in borrowing costs of 20 basis points in 1987, they will be lucky to get away with three times that next year.

There will be exceptions, of course. The most valued corporate customers, the giant

**Borrowing costs next year will be three times what they were back in 1987**

multinationals with treasury departments that generate a welter of juicy fee-earning business, will probably be able to use their bargaining leverage to keep borrowing costs down.

However, unlike the old days, smaller companies, or those with little follow-up business to offer, will see the pricing differential between themselves and top-rated con-

cerns widen alarmingly. At least, that is what the bankers hope. It is unlikely that there will be a return to the market conditions of three years ago in the foreseeable future. But it is possible that Americans and Japanese will reappear in large numbers. If so, supply will again start to exceed demand and pricing will come under downward pressure.

Another factor might also put a ceiling on price. Simple bank debt is no longer as attractive as it was a few years ago. Not only has it become relatively more expensive, but several well publicised corporate disasters have demonstrated the dangers of over-dependence on banks, especially those with which the borrower has only a distant relationship.

Equity, private placement and bond finance all look attractive in comparison. As a result, the old style MOF, the massive committed credit facility, is likely to disappear from the scene.

JONATHAN PRYNN

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## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Prospecting for new gold

AFTER turning its back on the mining sector three years ago, Sheppards, the broker, has decided the time is ripe to create a new mining team. In charge is Andrew Stormonth-Darling, who lost his place on Credit Lyonnais Laing's mining desk in July. He has persuaded Sheppards to come back into the market, and is looking for an analyst and a salesman to help with the task.

"We will focus on South Africa," says Stormonth-Darling, who hopes to forge ties with someone in Johannesburg. Perhaps he should chat to Adam Fleming, the Robert Fleming director and family member, who is moving to SA as the bank's front man.

### Visiting cards

LILLEY, the construction group, won an award last week for having the best company visits. Why thoughts went back to February, when a dozen

analysts flew to Scotland for a day at the group's Glasgow headquarters. The weather closed in and the party was rushed from the airport to the station to catch the late-afternoon train. They finally rolled into Euston at 6.30 next morning — nine hours late — having played cards all night. "Fortunately the train stopped to refuel at Carlisle and we took on more booze," says Charles Dampney of Girozentrale Gilbert Elliott, none the worse for his ordeal.

### Cut and thrust

CITY firms that cross swords with Sabre Fund Management do so at their peril. Three years ago, the group was approached by Amin Zahir, a budding sabreur, who needed a helping hand to start him off. Now Zahir, aged 21, is ranked second in the UK — after climbing his way up from 65th — and has been selected for the British team at next year's Olympic Games in Barcelona. "He came from nowhere and now has a decent chance of winning a medal," says Mark Fox-Andrews, a Sabre partner.

### 20/20 vision

NOSTRADAMUS would approve of a circular doing the rounds at Morgan Stanley, the securities house. In a study of Swedish banking, the figure 20 keeps popping up. In the Eighties, 20 per cent of new lending was not linked to

property, and SKr20 billion in property has been sold by foreclosure this year. Loan losses are expected to be SKr20 billion in 1991, banks have SKr20 billion in outstanding loans, and ten property companies have gone bust this year with total assets of SKr20 billion. To crown it all, Swedish banks underperformed by 20 per cent last month. Hardly surprising.

### You're the tops

WATCHING profits climb for 15 years running seems to be telling on directors of Close Brothers, the merchant bank. During a bash for employees at The Roof Gardens, in west London, four singers looking uncannily like The Four Tops took the stage with versions of "Can't help myself" and "Baby I need your loving". They turned out to be the bank's four senior directors: Peter Stone, Rod Kent, Jonathan Thornton and Colin Keogh. "So few banks are happy these days," croaks Stone, gravel-voiced.

### GRAFFITO seen in the Square Mile

"Inflation is when money still talks, but in an apologetic tone."





## Ethical funds under scrutiny

By LINDSAY COOK  
MONEY EDITOR

ETHICAL investment comes under scrutiny this week when the High Court is asked to rule whether the Church Commissioners should give greater consideration to ethical issues when investing its £3 billion.

The Bishop of Oxford, Richard Harries, and two other clerics, want the court to establish that the commissioners have a duty to consider the ethical teaching of the Church of England when deciding which companies to invest in. The church commissioners say they must put the financial returns first.

Ethical investments have grown in popularity in the past five years but still lag behind America. In Britain, about £300 million is invested in ethical funds. In America, about £375 billion is invested on ethical or environmental grounds.

There are 17 ethical and environmental unit trusts and a range of insurance bonds, pension funds and personal equity plans aimed at green and ethical investors. Most are less than two years old and have performed slightly better than average. Before the recession, their investment returns were well above average.

The largest UK ethical fund manager is Friends Provident, whose Stewardship Fund was launched in 1984 and has £105 million invested. Over the past year, it has returned 8.6 per cent to investors. The much smaller income fund has returned 10.9 per cent and the North American ethical fund has returned 36.6 per cent after charges. This is much better than the return on Friends Provident's standard North American fund.

All three Friends Provident funds exclude companies involved in armaments, alcohol, tobacco, gambling, exploitation of animals, pollution, ozone-depleting chemicals, nuclear power, the destruction of the rain forests, pesticides and hazardous chemicals.

The Scottish Equitable ethical unit trust was 17th out of 144 British growth funds in the year to September.

Several of the green funds have environmentalists on their committees.

# Lakeland Power switches on

Philip Bassett  
looks at the  
history behind  
Britain's first  
independent  
power station,  
which opens in  
Cumbria today

THE government's desire to create real competition in the electricity supply industry will see its first full manifestation today when John Wakeham, the energy secretary, formally opens Britain's first independent power station.

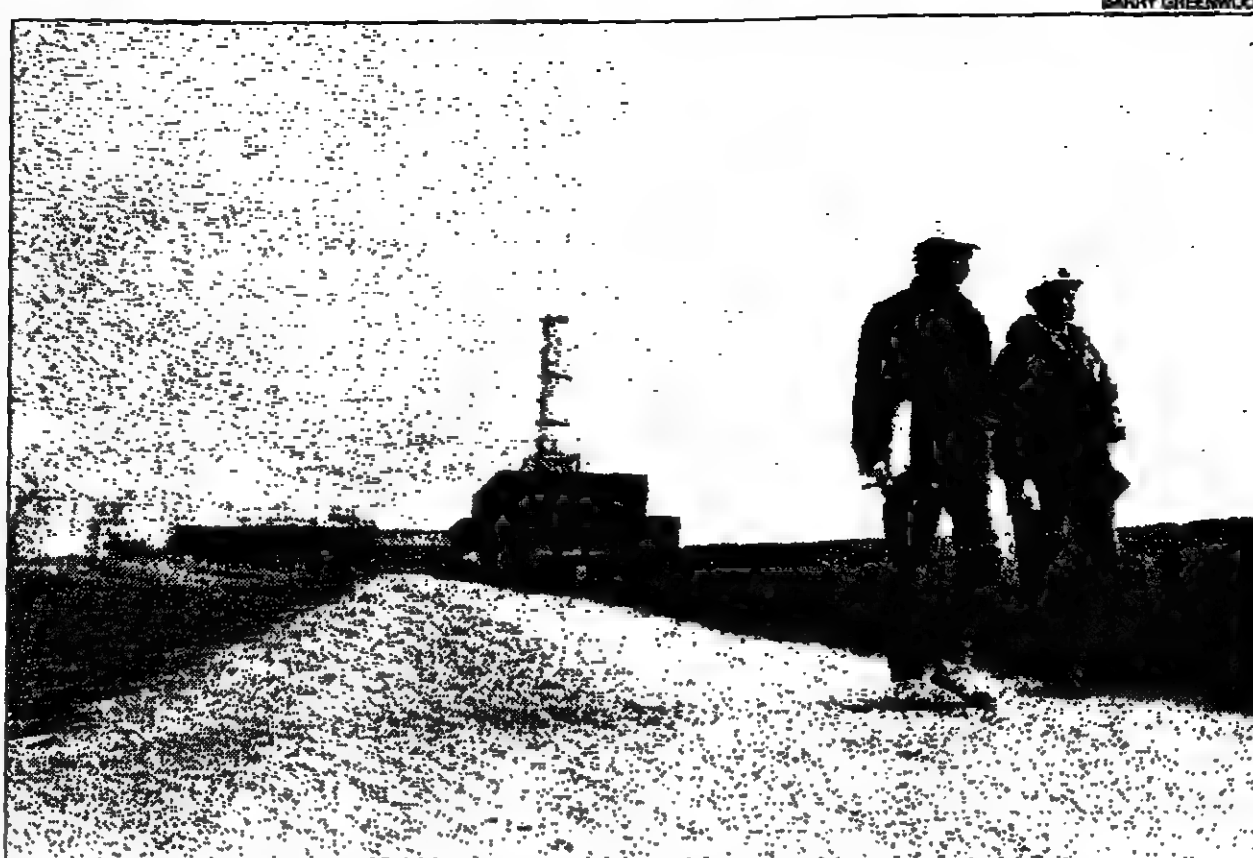
On a 104-acre site near the shipbuilding town of Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, Mr Wakeham will unveil Britain's first combined-cycle power station using gas or oil supplies to produce electricity, which is also the first independent power station to be built in Britain since the privatisation restructuring of the electricity supply industry in the late Eighties.

Then, ministers were clear that greater competition was at the heart of the government's power privatisation programme. Cecil Parkinson, Mr Wakeham's forerunner at energy, saw increased competition as one of the six guiding principles of privatisation legislation.

The reality is rather different. Oxa, the Oxford Economic Research Associates consultancy, which specialises in analysing the power industries, believes many of the large power projects being planned - there are 20 or more - will founder.

Oxa believes only five will be operational by the mid-Nineties and that new entrants to the market, squeezed by a post-nationalised industry surplus of generating capacity, the heavy cost of capital investment and by the ability of current suppliers to manipulate, if they wished, prices in the electricity spot market, or "pool", face bleak prospects.

Oxa's chosen five are Yorkshire Electricity's Briggs station on Humber and



Corridor of power: engineers Clive Billings and Hans Nydegger, at Roosecote, site of the Lakeland station

the large Teesside power station; Peterborough Power, being built by Eastern Electricity and Hawker Siddeley; East Midlands Electricity's station at Corby, Northamptonshire; and Lakeland Power in Cumbria. Lakeland Power is the idyllic-sounding name for the company that will proudly see Mr Wakeham bring into play at Barrow the first and as yet only real fruit of the government's drive for competition.

## Oxa believes many large power projects being planned will founder

in the industry. For Lakeland Power, today marks the end of a long haul.

In 1987, the then Central Electricity Generating Board offered for sale a defunct power station at Roosecote in Cumbria. Originally built by the CEBG in 1954, Roosecote was rated at 120MW and came to operate at a thermal efficiency level well below the national average. In 1983, the station was closed by the

CEBG, and mothballed under a maintenance programme. When it was offered for sale, four men - Richard Stubbs, now Lakeland Power's managing director, Ron Stone, its finance director, Neil Bryson and Eric Ratcliffe - saw it as an opportunity to build Britain's first privately-owned power station that could sell its electricity for public use in the open competition of the post-privatisation era.

Their original intention was to repower Roosecote using its existing steam turbines, plus a gas turbine, to provide combined-cycle technology, which has the twin advantages of higher thermal efficiencies and a reduction in toxic emission levels of CO<sub>2</sub> greenhouse gases. But as they talked to potential investors, it became clear that this was not possible: depending on 30-year old steam turbines to generate power continuously to a market in which non-delivery would incur considerable financial penalties was unacceptable.

The 1989 Electricity Act, however, not only privatised the supply industry, but also allowed stations to burn natural gas for the first time in the United Kingdom. Morecambe

Bay's gas fields are a good stone's throw from Roosecote. With that in mind, Ases Brown Boveri (ABB), the Swedish-Swiss power plant manufacturer with 215,000 employees worldwide, contributed 80 per cent of the capital for the Roosecote project.

Changes happened quickly. The repowering of the steam turbines was abandoned. Instead, a single gas turbine, a steam turbine and a heat

## The Roosecote plant embodies a number of firsts for the supply industry

recovery boiler would all be installed in the turbine hall of the original station. At 220MW, the new station's capacity would be 80 per cent greater than the original Roosecote, and its thermal efficiency more than double that of the old plant.

The last ingredient was put in place when Norweb, the Northwest's regional electricity company, signed a contract to buy the station's entire

output for 15 years, starting in just under four weeks' time on November 1. Manweb, the Manchester-based company, has taken a 20 per cent equity stake in the new station.

Demolition work began in January last year. Swaths of asbestos and old machinery were ripped out, two high chimneys knocked down, and an ABB 13E gas turbine - the largest in operation in Europe - was installed. The turbine was first fired in June, with full commissioning following in time for today's official opening.

The new £130 million Roosecote plant embodies a number of firsts for the electricity supply industry. But as Mr Wakeham opens the plant today, a number of questions remain: how many of the other projects will come to fruition; why some - probably many, maybe most - will fall by the wayside, and what that means for the government's drive for competition.

Roosecote is a significant development in UK power generation, but it may provide fewer pointers for the shape of the industry than Mr Wakeham and his ministerial colleagues would like to see.

## London 'to slip' in league of top European cities

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

LONDON will see its relative position as a leading European city eroded because of incoherent planning policies, the poor performance of the British economy and the eastward shift in business activities following the democratisation of eastern Europe, according to a new economic forecast.

The report, by Cambridge Econometrics, the economic forecasting agency, claims that greater London will fall from fourth to seventh by 1995, in the league table measuring gross domestic product (GDP) per capita. The beneficiaries of the eastward drift in Europe are Brussels, Berlin and Bologna, while the other main loser is Copenhagen.

The report says: "Particularly noteworthy is the forecast decline in the ranking of London, from fourth to seventh position in terms of GDP per capita. This mainly reflects the projected slower overall performance of the UK economy, certainly in the early 1990s, but also the expected shift in the focus of economic activity towards the south and east of the EC."

Head of the table is Ham-

burg, with a per capita GDP of 31,517 ecus (£22,000), followed by the Ile de France region, including Paris, (Ecu26,966) and the region around Frankfurt (Ecu24,005). London's per capita GDP is Ecu21,087, which is still ahead of Berlin and Düsseldorf, but behind Brussels, Munich and Stuttgart.

London's prospects are hampered by its lack of coherent infrastructure planning. The report says: "For many of the major cities, congestion is an important constraint on future growth, reflected both in property values and in the strain upon the transportation network... As a world-class city, London's competitive position is not helped by the lack of strategic transport planning."

The study claims the success of the cities depends "on their success as a location for growth in business services". European Regional Prospects is available from Cambridge Econometrics, 21 St Andrew's Street, Cambridge, CB2 3AX, (tel: 0223/460760), for £140, or £70 in an abridged edition.

## Children's market bucks recession

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

BRITONS spent £7.3 billion on their children last year, a rise of 6.4 per cent on the previous year, despite the recession and the fact that the average number of children per family has not risen in the past decade.

A report by Verdict, the market research group, says the decision by women to start their families later in life and to return to work after giving birth has fuelled spending on children. In addition, spending on children is one area that is least likely to be cut in a recession.

Not all sectors of the children's market have escaped the recession unscathed. Last year, sales of children's clothes grew only 3.9 per cent, a fall in real terms, toys fell 2 per cent and children's furniture 1 per

cent. There was no growth in the baby buggies and prams market.

Baby consumables, including nappies and toiletries, increased 14 per cent, children's foods rose 13 per cent, and children's books and videos both grew 17 per cent plus, according to Verdict.

Childrenswear is the largest product market, with a value close to £2.4 billion last year. This market, which is dominated by Marks and Spencer, which has a 10 per cent share, has grown 28 per cent since 1985, the equivalent of annual compound growth of 5.1 per cent. Growth last year was only 3.9 per cent.

The number of children aged up to 14 years is expected to grow by about 1 million over the next decade.

## REPORTING THIS WEEK

# BM Group forecast to buck trend with strong advance

THE BM Group, the construction equipment and building materials supplier headed by Roger Shute, is expected to buck the depressed trend with a healthy advance in full-year profits, when it reports tomorrow.

BM Group took over Blackwood Hodge, the distributor of construction, earthmoving and mining equipment, last autumn in a deal worth £58 million, but there will be little impact on BM's figures this time.

Mitchell Teager, at Albert E Sharp, expects pre-tax profits to surge to about £35 million, against £23.1 million, boosted by the group's thrust into overseas markets. Earnings per share are forecast to rise to 28p (22.6p) with a dividend of 3.4p (2.6p).

Mr Teager says BM's borrowings are expected to come down further. Gearing should be below 70 per cent, against about 100 per cent when the bid went through. He added that, bearing in mind the markets in which the group operates, it was "almost walking on water".

### TODAY

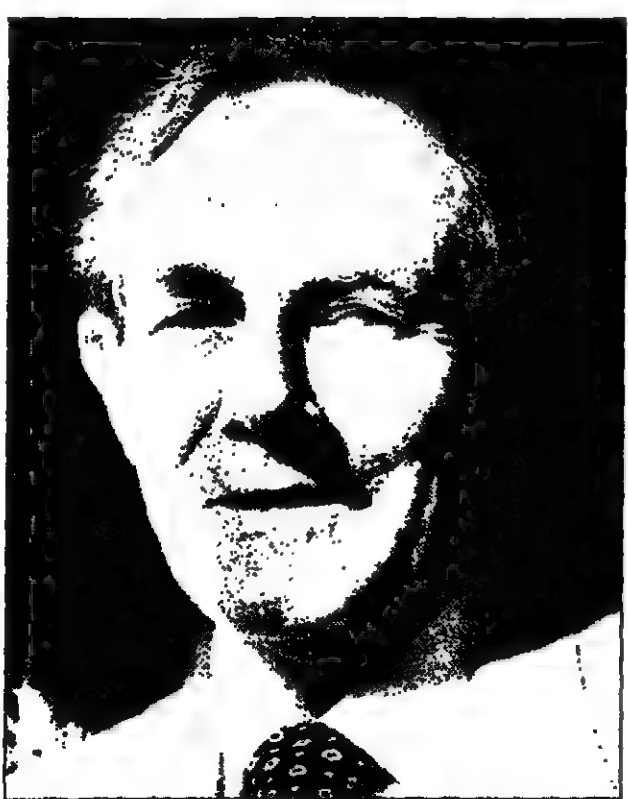
Interim: Bridgend Group, Euro-tunnel, Greenacre Group, Newham Group, Monarch Resources. Final: Anglessey Mining, County-Glen, Scottish Asian Investment Co. Economic statistics: Credit business (August); retail sales (August - final).

### TOMORROW

Analysts believe that final pre-tax profits at Barry Wehmiller International, the specialist packaging equipment group that issued a profits warning in July, will fall to between £5 million and £5.2 million, against £12.3 million last time.

Alexandra Workwear, the maker and distributor of work clothes, will, at best, break even at the interim stage, compared with profits of £4.1 million last time, according to Ben Thefault, an analyst at Albert E Sharp.

Profits will be affected by a combination of depressed conditions and a £1.5 million exceptional charge for the rationalisation of the Scottish operations. Mr Thefault is looking for full-year taxable



Focus on prospects: John Parry of Hammerson

profits of £1 million, compared with £6.58 million. Interim: Alexandra Workwear, Anglo American Investment Trust, Children's Medical Charity Investment Trust, Cusack (L), Freeman Group, Hamlin Holdings AS, Johnson Group, Lawrence (Walker), London and Manchester Group, NMW Computers, OS Holdings, S&U Stores, Time Products, Walker Greenbank.

Final: Barry Wehmiller International, BM Group, Manchester United Football Club, Pegasus Group.

### WEDNESDAY

Allied Leisure, the ten pin bowling and night club group, is expected to buck the trend with another good advance in full-year pre-tax profits to £3.1 million (£2.61 million), according to Smith New Court. Market forecasts range from £3 million to £3.5 million.

Austin Reed, the upmarket clothing retailer and manufacturer, is likely to suffer a decline in first-half pre-tax profits to about £600,000, against £905,000, according to County NatWest. Sales volumes are estimated to have dropped by 8 per cent

dividend of 1.75p (1.5p) is forecast.

Profits will benefit from a strong performance from sports shoes, which have fared exceptionally well during the recession, plus a healthy contribution from Cofox, the Dutch subsidiary, which includes Ben Boys leisurewear. Mr Taimuri added: "I expect this upbeat story to continue for some time."

Interim: Barlows, BNS Resources, Camilla Investments, Capital and Regional Properties, Finlay (James), Grolund International, Hec Sports, Korea Asia Fund, Malaysia Mining Corp, Transfer Technology Group, TR City of London Trust.

### FRIDAY

The interim figures from the Hammerson Property Investment and Development Corporation, headed by Sydney Mason, the chairman, and John Parry, the managing director, are of less significance than those at the full-year stage, which include the net asset value.

Market attention is likely to focus on any statement on the current and future trading prospects. Alec Peimore, an analyst at Kleinwort Benson, is looking for pre-tax profits of about £34.5 million, slightly up on last time's £33.6 million. The interim dividend should be at least maintained at 3.5p and could be raised to 4p, although this still represents only a fraction of the year's total dividend.

The figures will be affected by plus or minus £5 million, depending on property trading profits. Most analysts do not expect provisions at the interim stage, but as one said: "You can never rule these things out."

Interim: Atlas Converting Equipment, Cohen (A) & Co, Gales (Frank), Hammerson Property Investment, Robinson (Thomas) Group, Slingsby (HC). Final: None announced. Economic statistics: Usable steel production (September); quarterly analysis of bank advances (June-August); capital issues and redemptions (September); retail prices index and tax and price index (September).

PHILIP PANGALOS

## UNLISTED SECURITIES

Company	Price	Change	Open	High	Low	Close	%	P/E
1,000,000 ABS Street	14	+0.5	13.5	14.0	13.5	14.0	3.6	1.5
2,250,000 ABS Street	14	+0.5	13.5	14.0	13.5	14.0	3.6	1.5
1,000,000 ABS Street	14	+0.5	13.5	14.0	13.5	14.0	3.6	1.5
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## Political charter?

THE Parent's Charter, which was issued to schools last week, is running into opposition already. Teachers have criticised the government's pamphlet both on grounds of accuracy and its alleged political bias.

At least three million copies of the pamphlet have been printed as part of a £2 million government campaign to inform parents of their rights. The education department says it is up to head teachers whether they order copies of the charter for parents.

One school in Lancaster is threatening not to do so because staff question its accuracy, especially in advising parents that art and music can be dropped at 14. Peter Inson, a deputy head, says: "The choice comes at the end of the school year. I do not want to have a lot of pupils refusing to go to lessons on their fourteenth birthdays."

The Secondary Heads Association has guaranteed support for members who refuse to distribute what they regard as a political document. Mike Pugh, the president, says: "Some years ago the government was very concerned about the involvement of schools in political matters - does the proximity of a general election change things?"

## Tripping up

AN argument over school exchanges is threatening a planned twinning agreement between Islington, in north London, and Arras, in northern France. Islington has balked at a French request for details of the ethnic origin of children on exchanges, despite assurances that the information was intended to keep black youngsters away from National Front supporters.

An Islington official said that the agreement would proceed only if Arras withdrew the request.

## Tripping back

TWO educational charities have merged to secure the future of a centre that has been providing trips to the country for inner-city children for almost 20 years.

## NOTICEBOARD

The demise of the Inner London Education Authority and spending cuts elsewhere had cut the number of visitors to the Out-of-Town Centre, in the New Forest, Hampshire.

The facility, based on a 90-acre farm, was to close last week until the intervention of the Countryside Education Trust, which runs non-residential programmes on the environment.

## True guide

ANNE Hardy's guide to groups encouraging young scientists, published on September 23, included an old address for Creativity in Science and Technology (Crest). The organisation is now based at the Department of Educational Studies, Surrey University, Guildford GU2 5XH.

## True grit

HUNDREDS of students are taking advantage of a new internal employment agency opened last week at the University of Wales.

Cardiff Students can earn up to £45 a week working the maximum 15 hours as porters, cleaners or doing catering jobs for Unistaff.

JUDITH Elkin, Birmingham Polytechnic's head of information studies, has edited an anthology of children's stories. Such has been the demand for copies that her *Puffin Book of Children's Stories* has gone into a second hardback edition before it has even been published.

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# University challenge: freshers'

The government is expanding higher education, but a survey by *The Times* found rising costs and a shortage of accommodation. John O'Leary reports

Choosing a university or a polytechnic has always been about more than just the promptings of the government. Others, however, are matching the polytechnics with increased enrolment of 20 per cent or more. Almost all have continued to guarantee a residential place to first-year students, although in London this normally applies only to applicants from outside the capital.

A few polytechnics have also held their numbers steady, or registered only a small increase, but most are continuing the dramatic growth of recent years. Not many polytechnics can compete with the universities for availability of accommodation, although East London, Hatfield, Huddersfield, Kingston, Newcastle, Thames Valley and Polytechnic West do guarantee places for first-year students. Staffordshire, which hit the headlines last year with a gym full of homeless freshers, now has sufficient places to offer a guarantee to any students placing the polytechnic first or second on their application forms.

Rents and accommodation vary widely between institutions. Here geography tends to have more of an influence than university status, with City of London Polytechnic recording the highest weekly rent at £66 for full board. The

cheapest in the survey is Birmingham University's £18.50 a week for self catering. Cheaper rents have been largely responsible for a shift in the balance of applications in recent years towards northern universities and polytechnics. Some in the expensive south east of England are

now trying to respond. Kingston Polytechnic, for example, refuses to list any accommodation costing more than £40 a week.

However, even northern institutions are seeing private sector rents rise as demand outstrips supply. Salford University had to resort to the

use of a sports hall last week to house some of its first-years, while Lancashire Polytechnic is accommodating freshers in a Southport holiday camp for the second year in succession. At Manchester Polytechnic, Dave Foster, vice-president of the students' union, says: "It is difficult to say whether the

	New students	Change on 1990	Total students	Residential places	Rents (£)	Counsellors	First term dropouts in 1990
Anglia	5,000	n/a	12,500	1,000 priority†	38	3	20
Birmingham	2,500†	150-200	7,425†	1,350†	30	4	n/a
Bournemouth	2,383	+300	5,482	250†	40-45	3	under 12
Brighton	2,500	+25-3%	10,000	1,475†	34-40	3	n/a
Bristol	5,000	NONE	13,000	1,000†	25-40	10	n/a
Central London	5,000	+6.5%	13,650	613†	40	9	n/a
City of London	1,500†	n/a	4,500†	485†	65th/27-39th	4	n/a
Coventry	3,300†	+500	8,400†	1,850†	45th/27-39th	3	n/a
East London	4,400	+450	9,900	730	25-42	3	100
Hatfield	4,087	+500	9,100	3,243 guaranteed for pre-May acceptances	27.50 hall/35.50 flat	6	n/a
Huddersfield	2,700	+186	8,556	1,012	25-30	2	76
Kingston	2,100	+200	6,500	900†	37	2	2%
Lancashire	3,100†	+100	7,500†	1,200†	26-28	3	60-70
Lancaster	4,000†	+10%	16,000	800†	25-35	3	180
Liverpool	6,000	+1,000	15,500	1,308†	45th/24-30th	3	n/a
Manchester	9,180	+300	20,500	1,440†	55th/35-40th	3	300
Newcastle	5,000	+1,450	11,250	589†	42	3	84
	3,957†	+40	9,289†	1,728 guaranteed for pre-July acceptances	30th/25th	3	n/a
North London	4,130	+970	8,250	423†	31-42	3	n/a
Nottingham	7,474	+10%	16,158	1,042†	43-50th/32-40th	3	100-150
Oxford	2,500†	+300	7,500	1,194†	37	3	n/a
Portsmouth	3,000	+270	10,000	1,188†	50th/30-40th	3	138
Sheffield	4,500†	+440	11,500†	2,028 priority†	1,550pa, hb/1,300pa, sc	2	n/a
South Bank	4,650	+420	11,500	812 priority†	45	4	1% in year
South West	3,500	+300	9,800	1,500	31	4	180
Staffordshire	2,850†	+100	9,800	2,400 guaranteed for those putting Sheffield first or second through PCAS	27	3	100
Sunderland	2,700†	+400	6,700	1,890†	27	4	n/a
Teesside	1,500†	NONE	7,600	1,100 priority†	n/a	2	n/a
Thames	1,991†	+513	6,840†	1,300	35-40	3	38
Ulster	1,900	+9%	6,500	600†	25-35	5	75
Wolverhampton	3,482†	+650	8,177†	1,522†	31-38	3	n/a

use of a sports hall last week to house some of its first-years, while Lancashire Polytechnic is accommodating freshers in a Southport holiday camp for the second year in succession.

At Manchester Polytechnic, Dave Foster, vice-president of the students' union, says: "It is difficult to say whether the

problems are getting worse, but a lot of students are sleeping on other people's floors. Rents have shot up to £42 a week in popular student areas, so people are forced out into districts like Moss Side that are not necessarily safe. New students in particular may not know what is safe."

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See spot: enrolment day at Sheffield, which can house almost 4,000 students for between £26 and £35 a week. The university will enrol 370 more than last year, taking its total to 10,000

071-481 1066

## EDUCATION

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071-782 7828

### UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

#### THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

##### DIRECTOR OF YEAR ABROAD PROGRAMMES

The University of Sheffield has a long standing and major commitment to international education and research. Our objectives for the Year Abroad Programme include:

- Attracting high calibre international students to study on University programmes as an integral and transferable part of their degree programme.
- Developing opportunities for home students to spend part of their studies overseas.

The Director provides the focus for the Programme co-ordinating all aspects of its management and providing leadership for future development. The key responsibilities include promotion of the Programme, recruitment of students, liaison with academic departments, co-ordination of student support services and management of the exchange programme.

This important role has a high profile and the Director must be able to communicate effectively with academic colleagues, have some understanding of University systems, an open and creative approach to problem solving, a good knowledge of marketing techniques and a high level of organisational skill. An ability to work closely with colleagues in a small team is essential.

Salary on Administrative Grade 2 (£14,740 - £19,073 pa), depending on experience.

Further particulars from Director of Personnel Services, P.O. Box 594, Fifth Court, Western Bank, Sheffield S10 5UH (0742-768555, ext 4144) to whom applications including a CV and the names/addresses of three referees (3 copies of all documents) should be sent by 1 November 1991. Please quote reference MAP437.

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### THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE

University of London

#### SECRETARY OF THE COLLEGE

Applications are invited for the appointment of Secretary of the College.

The Secretary is responsible for all the financial and administrative aspects of the management of the College and is closely involved in planning and developing policy.

The ideal candidate will be appropriately qualified and experienced in management and financial control and familiar with administrative practice in universities.

Salary is within the professional range and will be at a level reflecting the importance of the post and the experience of the applicant.

Intending applicants should obtain further particulars from the Assistant Secretary (Personnel), The Royal Veterinary College, Royal College Street, London NW1 0TU, telephone 071-387 2998, before submitting applications. Applications should be supported by 10 copies of a full c.v. and the names and addresses of three referees, to arrive no later than 31 October 1991.

### UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

Applications are invited by the

Governing Body of the College for the following full-time Statutory post:-

#### Professorship of Classics

(Ref: 8591)

Prior to application, further information (including application procedure) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College Dublin, Bedford, Dublin 4 (quoting reference). Telephone enquiries: (+353-1) 2693244 or 7067777 exts. 1412/1633 Fax: (+353-1) 2694409.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is Thursday, 21st November 1991.

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### UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

#### DEPARTMENT FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

In association with Rawley House

##### DEPUTY DIRECTOR (INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES)

Applications are invited for this new post which will be responsible for the organisation and development of the Department's international programmes and an increasing opportunity to build on the University's existing work in this area.

The appointment will carry with it a Fellowship of Rawley House and will be on the University's scale for Readers (£24,922-£28,165). It will be from 1 January 1992 or as soon as possible thereafter. Applicants must be well-qualified academically and professionally, in any field relevant to the University's academic interests. Familiarity with developments in international programmes and continuing education and experience in financial management will be an advantage.

Further particulars from Dr Off, Department for Continuing Education, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA. Closing date 15 November 1991.

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# Cauthen to collect Warwick double

IF RIDING at Warwick on a Monday after a weekend spent in Paris feels a bit of a comedown, there should be compensation for Steve Cauthen with a double on the Midlands track, thanks to Stone Mill (2.30) and White Witch (3.00). Sheikh Mohammed's retained trainer takes over from Barry Hills's promising apprentice Colin Munday on Stone Mill, my selection for the Queen's Stakes. Ridden by Munday, Stone Mill has been in fine form late winning three of his last four races and finishing second in the other, over distances ranging from a mile to ten furlongs. It is that ability to get those distances that could well turn out to be his trump card today when he does battle over seven furlongs with Sumonda, who won over today's trip at Ayr last time.

The exquisitely-bred White Witch ran well enough in the race won by Rishi Flower at Kempton last time to suggest that she should become the second leg of Cauthen's double by winning the Wroxhall Maiden Stakes.

While the American will be hoping to win the Mop Maiden Stakes as well for

where Tamim is napped to win the Claxton Bay Graduation Stakes.

Already a winner on this same South Yorkshire track and at Haydock much earlier in the season, this Tom Jones-trained two-year-old should have much too much firepower for today's opposition judged on his third behind Bidda Jidda at Doncaster on St Leger day.

Needing only five more winners to reach his target of 40 this season (if he does so), the Epsom trainer Geoff Lewis will be understandably hungry to take another step up the ladder of success by winning the Caroni Nursery with Don Leave Ma, who showed the requisite stamina when winning last Tuesday at Brighton.

Finally, following their deserved triumph in Saturday's Cambridgeshire with Mellotte, Mary Reveley and John Lowe can celebrate by also winning the Trinidad & Tobago Handicap with Firm Price, who made an eye-catching comeback on the Flat at Newcastle six days ago when he finished fourth behind Subsonic after a spell hurdlng and steeplechasing in the care of John Edwards.

**MANDARIN**

**MICHAEL PHILLIPS**

Sheikh Mohammed on Stonecut, who certainly ran with a degree of promise first time out at Brighton, I much prefer the Peter Chapple Hyam-trained Feminine Wiles, who was hampered twice in the straight at Doncaster before eventually finishing third in the May Hill Stakes.

After a stewards' inquiry she was deservedly promoted to second on the disqualification of Fern.

Feminine Wiles gets today's trip well even though she is by the sprinter Ahonoora; that stamina coming from her dam, who is a half-sister to Law Society.

The conditions of the Arden Stakes would appear to give Lucky Guest a fine chance of beating Grammos, thus enabling his jockey Willie Carson to rival Cauthen as the leading at the end of the programme by Stocking winning the Prince Rupert Handicap.

The daily search for the best bet has led me to Pontefract

## Niven foiled by Kelso ruling

PETER NIVEN rode the first five winners at Kelso on Saturday, and was only prevented from going through the card by the stewards.

After partnering the first four winners, Niven was offered the ride on last year's favourite Rawan by Graham McCourt, provided he made it five out of five on Danza Heights in the fifth race.

But, after Niven had duly won on Danza Heights, the stewards refused to allow the switch under Rule 141.

McCourt was left to steer Rawan to an easy win over steeplechaser's Hill in the concluding race.

Had Niven been allowed to ride Rawan, he would have become only the third jockey to go through the card in a six-race programme in Britain.

Niven has twice partnered four winners at a meeting - at Sedgfield and Edinburgh.

His five-time career on Go Tally Ho (7-4), Local Customer (4-6), Ambuscade (2-1), The Matikila (2-1) and Danza Heights (2-7).

Ambuscade and Danza Heights are both trained by Mary Reveley, also successful in the William Hill Cambridgeshire, with Mellotte.



Niven: first five winners at Kelso

**2.25 HILL BEAGLE 2.55 TIGERS PET 3.35 TOPKEA EXPRESS 4.05 KATHY COOK 4.35 JUST A WONDER 5.05 WEDDING FEAST**

**THUNDERER**

2.25 Hill Beagle, 2.55 Bullseye, 3.35 Topkea Express, 4.05 King Of Shadows, 4.35 Derring Bud, 5.05 Pant Lin.

**GOING: STANDARD**

**2.25 LA TRAVIATA HANDICAP CHASE (22,224: 5m) (5 runners)**

1. 455 TWEETLE 146 (J) (B) 5-11-10 C Llewellyn  
2. 456 WILL BEAGLE 146 (J) (B) 5-11-10 C Llewellyn  
3. 457 PANT LIN 146 (J) (B) 5-11-10 C Llewellyn  
4. 458 TIGERS PET 146 (J) (B) 5-11-10 C Llewellyn  
5. 459 JUST A WONDER 146 (J) (B) 5-11-10 C Llewellyn

**2.55 RIGOLETTO HANDICAP CHASE (22,183: 2m) (6 runners)**

1. 460 TIGERS PET 146 (J) (B) 5-11-10 C Llewellyn  
2. 461 TIGERS PET 146 (J) (B) 5-11-10 C Llewellyn  
3. 462 TIGERS PET 146 (J) (B) 5-11-10 C Llewellyn  
4. 463 TIGERS PET 146 (J) (B) 5-11-10 C Llewellyn  
5. 464 TIGERS PET 146 (J) (B) 5-11-10 C Llewellyn  
6. 465 TIGERS PET 146 (J) (B) 5-11-10 C Llewellyn

**COURSE SPECIALISTS**

TRAINERS: M. P. 18 winners from 41 runners, 43.9%; R. 15 winners from 48 runners, 31.2%; W. 10 winners from 25 runners, 40.0%; J. 10 winners from 25 runners, 40.0%; S. 10 winners from 25 runners, 40.0%; D. 10 winners from 25 runners, 40.0%; G. 10 winners from 25 runners, 40.0%; H. 10 winners from 25 runners, 40.0%; K. 10 winners from 25 runners, 40.0%; L. 10 winners from 25 runners, 40.0%; N. 10 winners from 25 runners, 40.0%; O. 10 winners from 25 runners, 40.0%; P. 10 winners from 25 runners, 40.0%; Q. 10 winners from 25 runners, 40.0%; R. 10 winners from 25 runners, 40.0%; S. 10 winners from 25 runners, 40.0%; T. 10 winners from 25 runners, 40.0%; U. 10 winners from 25 runners, 40.0%; V. 10 winners from 25 runners, 40.0%; W. 10 winners from 25 runners, 40.0%; X. 10 winners from 25 runners, 40.0%; Y. 10 winners from 25 runners, 40.0%; Z. 10 winners from 25 runners, 40.0%;

**RESULTS**

Newmarket

Going: good to firm

2.05 (1) 1. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 2. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 3. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 4. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 5. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 6. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 7. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 8. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 9. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 10. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 11. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 12. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 13. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 14. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 15. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 16. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 17. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 18. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 19. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 20. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 21. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 22. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 23. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 24. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 25. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 26. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 27. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 28. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 29. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 30. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 31. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 32. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 33. Rishi Flower (A. C. 4-1); 34. 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**Notts County..... 1**  
**Manchester City..... 3**  
**By DENNIS SHAW**

Allen scored twice within eight minutes of appearing as a second-half substitute to transform the shape of a remarkable game and bring Manchester City a much-needed victory. Until Allen intervened, it was Notts County who had been in control and who ought to have been several goals clear and easing towards a win.

Surprisingly, the only reward for their pressure was a 20-yard strike by Thomas after 49 minutes. That, in view of City's ineptitude up front, nevertheless seemed to be enough to give Nottingham the points.

Instead, there was a shock.

City's recent record from the spot is poor. Reid and Hughes have both missed penalties in recent weeks, and this time Brennan failed, his shot kept out by Cherry with a full-length dive.

Allen, when finally called upon by Reid, made an immediate impact. His first shot was stopped, goalkeeper style, by the keeper by Thomas, who was sent off for conceding. Allen's second penalty was with his professional foul. Allen was this time handed the responsibility for the kick and he made no mistake, driving City into a seventh-minute lead. When White stormed along the right, capitalising in an error by Craig Short, to get the ball back into the goal mouth, Allen's joyous blast made it 3-1.

"I honestly thought I had played my last game for Manchester City before today," Allen said afterwards. "I have not figured in the first team and I've been training with the youths. It seems that I have been out of favour since I declined a move to Luton. I think now I have proved I want to play for Manchester City."

**NOTTS COUNTY:** S Cherry; C Palmer, A Pans, Craig Short, D Yates, P Harding. (sub: P Turner), D Thomas, M Draper, P Rideout, K Bartlett. (sub: D Regis), T Johnson

**MANCHESTER CITY:** A Colon; M Brennan (sub: C Allen), N Portin, P Reid, M Sharon, S Redmond, D White, A Heath, I Brightwell, G Megson, M Hughes (sub: D Hoekman). Refuges: A W Ward.

By STUART JONES

The list of long-term casualties has been extended within the last week. Salako, one of the principal successes of the South Pacific tour during the summer, damaged the cruciate ligament

Mark Wright has also undergone an operation on an Achilles tendon and Barnes, Gascoigne and Sharpe are also out of contention for the two remaining qualifying games. Other candidates, even if they have recovered from various ailments, are short of practice.

They include Parker, who has not played since appearing for England against Germany a month ago and Walker, who before yesterday had played no more than a few minutes for

The winger's marvellous performance for Marseilles in the 4-0 victory against Nantes on Saturday may not be enough to persuade Taylor to recall him but the manager may feel that Robson is still worth a place, even at the age of 34.

Even though Taylor could summon the likes of Barty and

took over that Robson would never play under him in central midfield. Because of injuries, though, he was forced to choose the Manchester United player for internationals against Cameroon and the Republic of Ireland earlier this year and he may now feel compelled to take the same decision.

Roeder, who recently left Watford, where he was the reserve team manager, rang Gascoigne in hospital to say that he had decided against going to Lazio after the incident in which Gascoigne fractured his knee.

remains "the John McEnroe of football", declined to elaborate on his reasons, apart from saying that the interests of his wife and two children, one of whom is Gascoigne's godson, came before his friendship with the player he took under his wing when they were a Newcastle United

"The fourth division? I love it," Sillett said. "I've been surprised and delighted by the number of skilful players. They're all trying to play it the proper way, on the ground."

However, Sillett's most young charges were only slow-

**SCUNTHORPE UNITED:** P. Musson (whin),  
Joyce, P. Longdon, D. Martin (sub),  
Alexander, S. Lister, G. Humphries (sub  
Stevenson), J. Buckley, M. Hine, A. Davies  
F.H. 1, H. Howell.

**HEREFORD UNITED:** A. Elliot; C. Fry (sub  
S. Jones), G. Downes, A. Theodisou, S. Davis,  
M. Caffrey, M. Poole, D. Thornton, S. Brain  
Herlihy, J. Nierbalt.  
Referee: E. Backer

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Oldham Athletic..... 1

## Գրականություն

THE teams in the first division, some are good, many comparatively moderate and few are poor. On Saturday

tham Athletic, developed a category of their own. Engaged in a fixture no more distinguished than a kick-about in a park, they were amateurish. The passing was woefully inaccurate, the movement bordered on the static and the level of invention scraped along with

floor. Incompetence was prevalent, particularly among the staff. The hospital's startlingly uncertain financial future, and the empty afternoons when the hospital was devoid even of patients, the factor often used to explain the hospital's lack of quality.

Thus Southampton had no

need to resort to the tactics which, statistically, have earned them the title of the dirtiest side in the League.

With the rugged Hurlock preferred to the creative Le Tissier, Southampton were predictably incapable of fashioning openings for Shearer, acting largely on his own up front. No matter, Oldham did so instead with either miscued or misdirected back-passes from Barrett and Badger.

Shearer poked in the first to put Southampton ahead, inexcusably pulled the second wide, and swept the third across an unguarded net.

side has given the opposition goal start in the last five games. His lop-sided attack, veering habitually towards Holden on the left flank, eventually found

Henry to seize on a rebound and claim the equaliser. "That was our poorest performance for long while," Royle said. "We were poor in the first half and the improvement was only marginal."

He pleaded for tolerance to be shown by the club's supporters

who, he believes, are divided into two groups. One has been visiting Boundary Park for so long that "they can remember when we were last in the first division". That was 68 years ago. Younger followers have

Disenchantment on the part of the races is audible. Not all of the usual derision was directed at the officials or the visitors, and Royce is aware that the restlessness

ness is growing. At Maine Road the previous week, when "we were even worse" in the first half, the murmurs of discontent began even earlier. For sanity sake, he needs to retain his natural self-deprecating sense of humour. Anyone in charge of Oldham or Southampton must appreciate the funny side of life.

**OLDHAM ATHLETIC:** J. Hallworth, P. Kay (sub: P. Bamford), A. Barlow, N. Henry, Barrett, R. Johnson, N. McDonald, I. Marshall, Sharp, M. Milligan, R. Holden.

**SOUTHAMPTON:** T. Flowers, J. Dodd, Gray, B. Horne, R. Hall, N. Ruddock, D. Lee, Cockrill, A. Shearer, T. Hurlock, M. Adams (sub: V. Collier).

## Sillett's reasons

**By KEITH PIKE**

FOR sheer, unabashed joy, John Sillett's arm-pumping, high-stepping jig around Wembley after Coventry City's FA Cup final victory against Tottenham in 1987 has probably only been

One of football's great enthusiasts, Sillett could have been excused if he had allowed

# still finds to smile

**THIRD AND**  
**FOURTH DIVISION**

A few well-chosen words of wisdom from Sillett seemed to do the trick. Theodosios headed Hereford in front in the

Board of Directors

scoring

of  
house

## WEEKEND FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

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